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**Consumer Group Condemns U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Report Attacking Florida**

New York – The Center for Justice & Democracy (CJ&D) today called the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s fifth annual state liability rankings report, which attacks Florida’s business environment, “dishonest, unfair, and contrary to the evidence about the state’s business climate.” In its report released on March 27, the Chamber criticizes the business litigation climate of Florida based on nothing more than the views of corporate lawyers who defend corporate wrongdoers. Joanne Doroshow, Executive Director of CJ&D, said, “The U.S. Chamber seems utterly unconcerned with either protecting the health and safety of Florida consumers or with being honest with the public about the actual business climate of Florida, which is, in fact, growing.”

Florida cities are ranked among the best cities to do business in America. According to *Inc. Magazines’* best cities for business in America, “A remarkable six of the top 25 cities on the large list, including No. 5 West Palm Beach, No. 7 Fort Lauderdale, No. 8 Jacksonville, No. 11 Orlando, No. 14 Tampa-St. Petersburg, and No. 22 Miami, are from the Sunshine State...” Florida’s state domestic product, in real terms, grew 7 percent last year, with real estate, construction, tourism and trade doing extremely well.

According to Doroshow, “The U.S. Chamber, for several years, has used its annual rankings to publicly, dishonestly, and inaccurately criticize the business climates of states using a questionable survey of corporate lawyers including in-house counsel for major corporations. These surveys reflect nothing more than the Chamber’s political agenda to limit legitimate lawsuits and accountability for corporate wrongdoers.”

CJ&D’s full fact sheet on Florida can be found at <http://centerjd.org>

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