



Supporting Consumer Redress without Class Actions

European Justice Forum was founded in early 2005 to promote balanced civil justice systems in Europe and in particular to avoid the import of damaging US-style class actions into Europe.

European Justice Forum supports:

- Accessible and rapid resolution of claims that have merit and equally rapid dismissal of claims that do not have merit;
- Resolution of disputes preferably by voluntary agreement rather than litigation;
- Avoidance of damaging class actions in Europe;
- Independent legal research at Oxford University into civil justice systems to provide new solutions to dispute resolution.

EJF's first priority is to provide financial support to an independent research programme on the reform of civil justice systems and collective redress at the Law Faculty of Oxford University. Led by Dr. Christopher Hodges, this programme has gained an international reputation and is helping to change academic thinking in these areas.

EJF believes that it can have no long term influence unless it can provide alternative solutions to litigation. EJF also believes that its recommendations will have little impact if they are not based on independent research.

Until recently, most governments based their policies for collective redress on making it easier for consumers to go to court by introducing collective litigation mechanisms. But now a new model is emerging among policy makers. Influenced by the research at Oxford University, this model is based on:

- Encouragement of voluntary settlement - ADR;
- Assistance by public authorities in encouraging restitution for consumers;
- Oversight by the court to ensure due process and to ensure that once a matter is resolved, no further proceedings are started;
- Relegation of collective litigation to the last resort.

EJF supports this new model which offers more flexible, practical and effective ways of achieving consumer redress and avoids the risks presented by class actions. With the appropriate safeguards, this model offers a better deal for consumers and for society as a whole. It brings compensation to those who deserve it without generating excessive delay and legal costs.

For more information, please see EJF's website – info@europeanjusticeforum.org