



**Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse
of Central Texas**

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CALA of Central Texas Legal Watchdog

Spring 2008

Web surfers beware –the Internet might be harmful to your health

Health-related Web sites sponsored by personal injury lawyers may appear to be credible online resources but are often designed to “sell, deceive or frighten” health care consumers, according to a new national study by the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest (www.cmpi.org) and unveiled by Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) groups at an Austin press conference on March 25.

The CMPI study found that many “medical information” Web sites have not been created by reputable health care sources, but by personal injury lawyers trolling for clients.

“As more and more patients rely on the Internet for health information, it’s important to distinguish between bona fide health resources and cleverly-masked personal injury lawyer Web sites,” said Dr. Evelyn Tobias Merrill, a board-certified family physician, board member of Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse and the spokesperson for the national Sick of Lawsuits campaign. “Misleading or inaccurate information sponsored by some personal injury lawyers poses a serious health threat, especially if bad information shapes patients’ healthcare decisions.”

Bobby Jenkins, chairman of CALA of Central Texas, said Texas CALAs are concerned by this aggressive trolling for clients that has now spread to the Internet.

“These aggressive tactics are very powerful,” Jenkins said. “Consumers need to be very aware of the health information they find on the Internet and we urge them to talk to their doctor if they are thinking of changing their course of treatment based on something they have seen or heard.”

For more information, read CALA’s press release at www.calactx.com under “Newsroom.”

Looking for a Speaker?

A representative of CALA of Central Texas is available for speaking engagements before civic organizations, trade associations and other groups. Contact Kirsten Voinis, executive director, at (512) 481-1000 or cala@calactx.com.



CALA of Central Texas Chairman Bobby Jenkins speaks at a press conference warning consumers to be wary of Internet healthcare sites.

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