

ACN LAWSUIT: THE TIME IS NOW!
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NCLAF Chairman

During the last several months, the NCLAF has repeatedly warned that it was only a matter of time until others would try to abuse doctors of chiropractic and our patients...and that it was inevitable that legal action would again be necessary.

Well, that time is now!

Unless you have been hiding out in a cave with Osama Ben Ladin, you have no doubt heard by now that the ACA on June 13th filed a lawsuit against the American Chiropractic Network (ACN) as a result of their unfair policies and practices.

In that lawsuit, the ACA alleged that ACN participated with the other managed care companies in the case in a conspiracy to illegally and systematically underpay providers by denying reimbursement for medically necessary treatment. I do not have to convince you that that was occurring...because many of you have experienced this type of abuse first hand. And in addition to filing the lawsuit, ACA activities include engaging state attorneys general and other regulatory authorities to joint the effort.

Perhaps ACA President Dr. Richard Brassard summed it up best when he said, "There is simply no greater priority for ACA than to oppose what we view as the abusive tactics of ACN and other managed care organizations that systematically deny needed chiropractic care to our patients. Doctors from across the country have provided us with reports of intimidation and coercion conducted under the guise of utilization control. This can no longer be tolerated by a profession dedicated to quality patient care. The ACA intends to expend every effort and seek every possible legal remedy to put a halt to these harmful practices."

So there you have it! Complete and total ACA dedication to legally righting the wrongs that are being committed by ACN. Sounds good, right? You bet it does! However, just like "freedom is not free," justice has a price tag too and why we need your help.

First and foremost, if you are not an ACA member, "the time is now" for you to join the organization that is fighting for you! From the defeat of S1955 to the filing of the ACN lawsuit, the ACA has truly earned your membership!

Then, after joining the ACA, "the time is now" to become a monthly contributor to the NCLAF. The abuses of ACN have occurred on our "watch" and it is our duty...and our time to protect and defend this profession.

Please, right now while this is in front of you, fight back by filling out the ACA membership application in this issue and the NCLAF pledge form on this page.

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