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CONTACT:
Amanda Ehrmantraut
Communications Coordinator
614-228-4201
aehrmantraut@ohiochamber.com

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Files Amicus Brief in Defense of Ohio Tort Reform Laws

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce filed an amicus brief at the Ohio Supreme Court today in defense of Ohio's tort reform laws.

The case, *Gibson Bros., Inc., et al., v. Oberlin College, et al.,* received national coverage when it first came to light because the ensuing litigation included allegations of racism and defamation. The Ohio Chamber amicus brief does not touch upon these issues, but instead focuses on the method by which judges properly calculate a punitive damage award. Ohio law caps punitive damages at twice the amount of a plaintiff's recoverable compensatory damage award. However, lower courts in Ohio have misapplied the statute, leading to excessively high punitive damage awards.

"For nearly 20 years, the Ohio Chamber has been a steadfast proponent of Ohio's tort reform law," said Kevin Shimp, General Counsel for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. "This amicus brief is our latest effort in defense of that law, which has fostered economic development in Ohio for two decades. When lower courts misapply this law, it can diminish Ohio's business climate by creating an unpredictable civil justice system that allows courts to issue excessive damage awards. The Ohio Chamber brief highlights why this matter is of statewide importance and should be heard by the justices at the Ohio Supreme Court."

The brief that was filed today urges the court to accept this case for an oral argument. The court will decide whether to accept jurisdiction after reviewing the arguments put forth by all parties in the litigation. **The full amicus brief is attached.**

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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