



# The Litigation Explosion: What Happened When America Unleashed the Lawsuit

By *Walter K. Olson*

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Twenty years ago, Americans saw lawsuits as a last resort; now they're the world's most litigious people. One of the most discussed, debated, and widely reviewed books of 1991, *The Litigation Explosion* explains why today's laws encourage us to sue first and ask questions later.

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Walter K. Olson is fast becoming the legal world's foremost whistleblower. A columnist for *Reason* magazine and author of *The Excuse Factory*, Olson makes complex legal issues understandable to people without law degrees. In *The Litigation Explosion*, he tells of how the United States turned into the world's most litigious society. The account is entertaining because Olson is a good writer, but also infuriating because the problems he describes are severe--ambulance-chasers, junk litigation, and plaintiff awards that line the pockets of lawyers instead of the victims they allegedly represent. A good book for everybody, but a must-read for those in the legal profession.

From Publishers Weekly

This important book catalogues the sins of the legal profession, while detailing the dangers brought by the explosion in jurisprudence that has made America the most litigious society on earth.

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From Library Journal

A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, Olson concisely examines the 20-year evolution of America's sue-and-be-damned society. Written primarily for the nonlawyer, his book will appeal to anyone wondering why the litigation explosion developed, what it means, and who profits and who loses. Olson thoroughly discusses the Alternative Dispute Resolution and the recent Rule 11 legislation, which promise some hope for reform. Recommended for public and university libraries.

- *Fern Sikkema, Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, Washington, D.C.*

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