

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808026203321
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Titolo	Distorting the law : politics, media, and the litigation crisis / / William Haltom and Michael McCann
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, c2004
ISBN	1-282-42658-3 0-226-31469-3 9786612426582
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (361 p.)
Collana	The Chicago series in law and society
Altri autori (Persone)	McCannMichael W. <1952->
Disciplina	346.7303
Soggetti	Actions and defenses - Press coverage - United States Torts - Press coverage - United States Law in mass media Law - Political aspects Sociological jurisprudence
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [307]-327) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The social production of legal knowledge -- Pop torts : tales of legal degeneration and moral regeneration -- In retort : narratives versus numbers -- ATLA shrugged : plaintiffs' lawyers play defense -- Full tort press : media coverage of civil litigation -- Java jive : genealogy of a juridical icon -- Smoke signals from the tobacco wars -- Law through the looking glass of mass politics.
Sommario/riassunto	In recent years, stories of reckless lawyers and greedy citizens have given the legal system, and victims in general, a bad name. Many Americans have come to believe that we live in the land of the litigious, where frivolous lawsuits and absurdly high settlements reign. Scholars have argued for years that this common view of the depraved ruin of our civil legal system is a myth, but their research and statistics rarely make the news. William Haltom and Michael McCann here persuasively show how popularized distorted understandings of tort litigation (or tort tales) have been perpetuated by the mass media and reform proponents. Distorting the Law lays bare how media coverage has sensationalized lawsuits and sympathetically portrayed corporate

interests, supporting big business and reinforcing negative stereotypes of law practices. Based on extensive interviews, nearly two decades of newspaper coverage, and in-depth studies of the McDonald's coffee case and tobacco litigation, *Distorting the Law* offers a compelling analysis of the presumed litigation crisis, the campaign for tort law reform, and the crucial role the media play in this process.
