

Richard Pyorre was terminated by State Farm February 28th 1999 after 27 years of service. The reason given was he did not attend an annual Mandatory Compliance Meeting on Ethics. Mr. Pyorre had medical issues from recent surgery and by his involvement in a motor vehicle accident as a passenger. He offered to take the ethics course by self study. State farm offered Mr. Pyorre a choice of three cities where he could attend the mandatory training. All were at least an 8 hour drive. He was terminated February 28, 1999 and on March 10, 1999 he received a letter from State Farm telling him they would not be paying any termination benefits.

Mr. Pyorre was told that he had failed to return State Farm Property. He says when State Farm withheld his termination payments they breached his contract and he had no choice except to sell insurance for other companies. State Farm then sued him for theft of trade secrets and unfair competition. The case was tried in front of a jury several years ago and Mr. Pyorre was successful.

On appeal State Farm had some success. The case is going to trial again very soon with the trade secrets aspect of the agent's agreement as the centerpiece of the litigation. Whoever owns customer information whether it's State Farm, Farmers or whichever direct writer company is involved is a critical issue. A win would help all agents with similar contracts.

Mr. Pyorre needs financial help. He was a NASFA member at the time that these issues happened and no NASFA's Legal Fund money was given to Mr. Pyorre. NASFA does support his current legal issues. UFAA's Legal Committee also looked at giving support to Mr. Pyorre but the vote on the issue did not support that action. UFAA does support his current issues and has decided to give our members the chance to donate directly to his Legal Fund.

If you wish to donate please send your contribution to:

Pyorre Legal Fund

P.O. BOX 549

Fort Bragg, CA 95437