Fracking Companies Lost on Trespassing, But a Court Just Gave Them a Different Win

A week after the West Virginia Supreme Court unanimously upheld the property rights of landowners battling one natural gas giant, the same court tossed out a challenge filed by another group of landowners against a different natural gas company, reports Ken Ward Jr. of the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*.

The article, **published** on the website of the ABA Journal, is the product of a partnership with the *Gazette-Mail*, a member of the ProPublica Local Reporting Network.

The court on Monday upheld a lower court ruling that threw out a collection of lawsuits alleging dust, traffic and noise from gas operations were creating a nuisance for nearby landowners.

“In the property rights case last week, the justices set a clear legal standard that natural gas companies can’t trespass on a person’s land, without permission, to tap into gas reserves from neighboring tracts,” writes Ward. “In Monday’s case, the justices didn’t articulate a new legal precedent.”

Read the *ABA Journal* article.