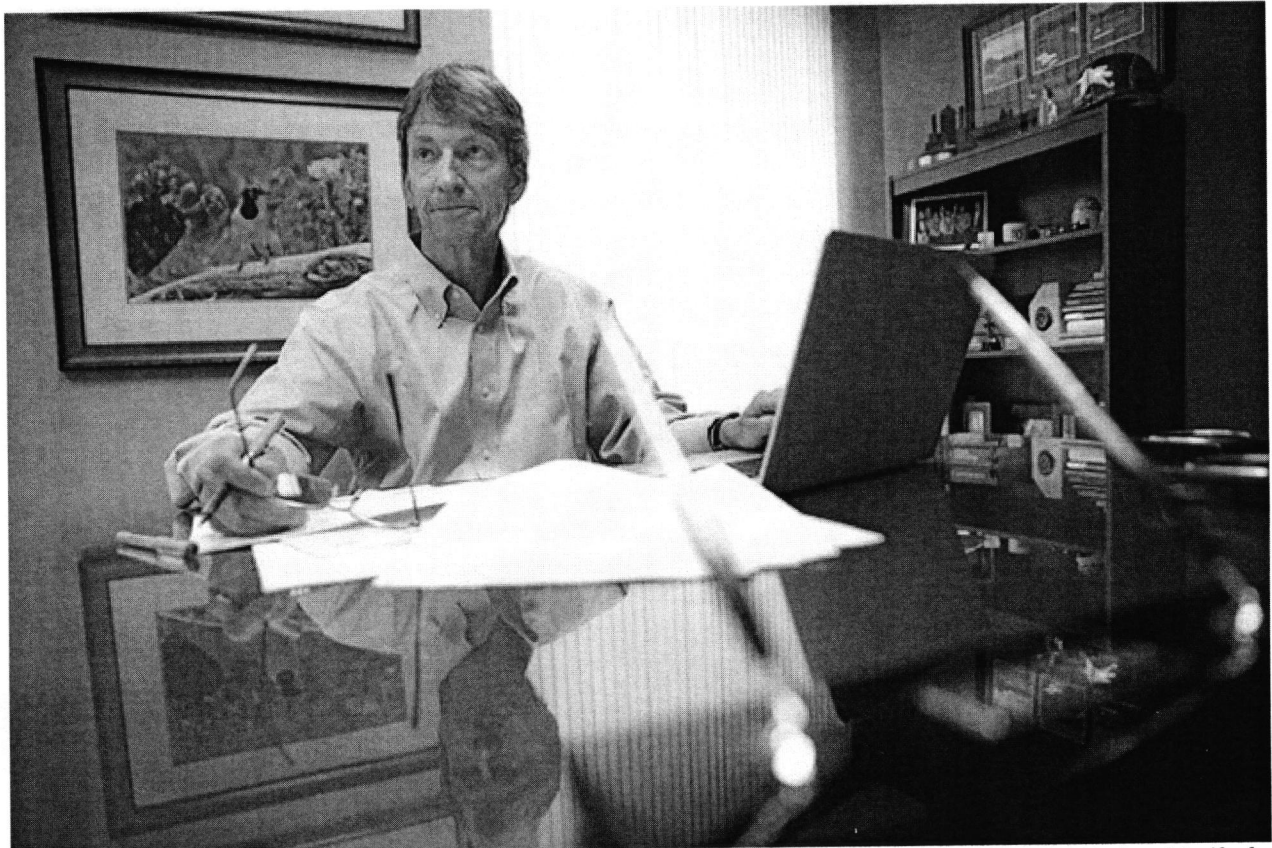


Oklahoma's Top Court: Companies Can't Set Own Rules for Injured Workers

A national campaign led by Walmart, Lowe's and other big companies to let employers opt out of workers' comp insurance was dealt a blow after the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled such plans unconstitutional.

by Michael Grabell
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Bill Minick is a Dallas lawyer whose company wrote most of the Oklahoma opt-out plans and about half of those in Texas. He vowed that his company and other supporters would continue their efforts to promote the alternative plans in other states. (Dylan Hollingsworth for ProPublica)

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A national campaign to rewrite state laws and allow businesses to decide how to care for their injured workers suffered a significant setback Tuesday when the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that Oklahoma's version of the law is unconstitutional.

The 2013 legislation gave Oklahoma employers the ability to "opt out" of the state workers' compensation system and write their own plans, setting the terms for what injuries were covered, which doctors workers