

Reps

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 supposed to be a sweeping ethics package watered down to the bare minimum. Still, the House passed the Honest and Open Government Act.
 This past two years, the

House has seen it's share of ethics-related scandal. Controversy surrounding former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, and now Rep. William Jefferson have

raised public questions about honesty in Washington.
 Still, top Democrats say they are working hard to clean things up. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer spoke passionately for stronger eth-

ics in the wake of these and other scandals.
 Hoyer said in a press release early this month, "The New Democratic Majority is absolutely committed to ensuring the highest integrity."

Pants

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 law judge, also failed to prove that the pants the dry cleaner tried to return were not the pants he took in.

Bartnoff ordered Pearson to pay clerical court costs of about \$1,000 to defendants Soo Chung, Jin Nam Chung and Ki Y. Chung. A motion to recover the Chungs' tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees will be considered later.

"Judge Bartnoff has spoken loudly in suggesting that, while consumers should be protected, abusive lawsuits like this will not be tolerated," the Chungs' attorney, Chris Manning, said in a statement. "Judge Bartnoff has chosen common sense and reasonableness over irrationality and unbridled venom."

Speaking to reporters outside their dry cleaners, the Chungs said they held no hard feelings toward Pearson. "If he wants to continue using our services, then, yes, he is welcome," Soo Chung, a Korean immigrant, said through a transla-

tor.
 Pearson, who came to court during the two-day trial earlier this month carrying the jacket he said went with the missing pants, did not respond to a call and an email seeking comment.

The case began in 2005 when Pearson became an administrative court judge and brought several suits for alterations to Custom Cleaners in Washington.

He said that the pair of pants from one suit was missing when he requested it two days later.

Pearson asked the cleaners for the full price of the suit: more than \$1,000.

Literacy

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ter an African-American and was formally named after a slave owner.

History plays a pivotal role in the destinies of youth who stand on the shoulders of those who paved the way for African-Americans, he said.

"None of us knows which young person at this table will be the first African-American woman to be the president of this country," Sims said, turning toward the table of dancers. "None of us knows the Nobel prize winners or Pulitzer prize winners. In Martin Luther King County, we're going to nurture and cultivate the next great leaders of this world."

But a week later, the Chungs said the pants had been found and he refused to pay. Pearson said those were not his pants and decided to sue.

Over the course of the litigation, the Chungs said they made three settlement offers — \$3,000, then \$4,600, then \$12,000 — all rejected.

The case garnered international attention and renewed calls for litigation reform.

"This case was giving American justice a black eye around the world, and it was all the more upsetting because it was a judge and lawyer who was bringing the

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Employment Opportunity

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