

## **Ruling hands big tobacco big setback on state suits**

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A divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that smokers can sue tobacco companies in state court for making fraudulent claims.

The surprising 5-4 ruling was a victory for the court's liberals, who in recent years have seen conservatives systematically curtail courtroom access. The ruling also drove down tobacco company stocks, on the prospect that multibillion-dollar lawsuits seeking class-action status may proliferate.

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