

The News Register

July 3, 2008

“Intra-organization Communication is the Life-Blood of our organization.”

This is an update on the Linda Call versus AT&T Pension Benefit Plan, previously the Ameritech Management Pension Plan lawsuit.

The lawsuit, filed in October 2001, alleged the mortality tables the pension plan used to calculate retirement benefits wrongly reduced payments to some workers. Linda Call, the employee who filed the initial lawsuit, said her \$219,312 in benefits were cut by about \$36,000 due to a 1999 amendment to the company's plan.

A U.S. District Court in 2004 said the AT&T plan violated federal pension laws and awarded a class of approximately 2,000 retirees the \$31.2 million judgment, which included \$6.4 million in interest. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago affirmed that ruling. AT&T then requested the United States Supreme Court to reverse the lower court ruling. On June 9, 2008, the United States Supreme Court denied AT&T's petition.

AASBCRSM checked with Linda Call's attorney, Douglas Sprong's assistant, LeAnn Eckhardt to get a definition of who is included in this lawsuit. LeAnn pointed out that it includes participants in the Ameritech Management Pension Plan who received a lump sum distribution after July 1, 1999, and whose lump sum distribution was less than it would have been had 1.) The person retired on or before June 30, 1999, **and** 2.) His or her lump sum had been recalculated utilizing the interest rate used by the PBGC to value lump sums as of the year in which they received their distribution and the correct mortality table that was in place as of June 30, 1999 and that the retiree would have received a larger lump sum. If you believe that you are part of this class and entitled to whatever award is available after all of the legal fees are paid, please check with attorney Douglas Sprong of the law firm Korein and Tillery, 505 North 7th Street, Suite 3600 St. Louis, MO 63101, phone: (314) 241-4844.