

## **Retired Delta Pilots Sue To Force Pension Funding**

DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

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WASHINGTON -- A group of retired Delta Air Lines Inc. (DAL) pilots filed a class-action lawsuit against the airline to force it to fund its pension plan and to make monthly payments to highly compensated retirees.

The retired pilots sued Delta on behalf of about 5,800 retired pilots, saying the airline is violating a provision of its pilots' labor contract that requires it to make minimum contributions to their pension plan and direct pension payments to about 3,485 retired pilots whose retirement benefits exceed federal limits on tax-exempt qualified pension payments.

The nine named plaintiffs in the lawsuit, filed Wednesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, are all members of the Pilots' Pension Preservation Organization, which lost an earlier bankruptcy court battle to force pension funding.

When it filed for bankruptcy protection in September, Delta said it would stop paying out the nonqualified pension payments. The Atlanta-based airline also said it would stop making the minimum contributions to its qualified pension plan so it could monitor legislation pending in Congress that would extend the time airlines have to fully fund their pensions.