



Pension and Employee Benefit Law
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16 Former SNET Workers Sue Over Retirement Benefits

By Staff Reporters

A group of former Southern New England Telephone employees is suing SBC Communications Corp. and its wireless subsidiary, Cingular, in a dispute over retirement benefits that they say could be worth as much as \$123 million.

The group of 16 former SNET workers is seeking to have their complaint certified as a class-action lawsuit on behalf of 500 workers.

Thomas Moukawsher, the lawyer representing the workers, said SBC and Cingular failed to honor an agreement to protect older workers when SNET switched from a traditional defined-benefit pension to a so-called cash-balance retirement plan in 1995.

Moukawsher said a benefits calculation for a sample of 12 workers found that the

average loss of benefits was more than \$243,000 a person.

Beverly Levy, a spokeswoman for SBC's Connecticut division, said the company only became aware of the lawsuit Monday and had no immediate comment.