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## **Workers Sue UPMC, West Penn, Mercy Hospitals**

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**PITTSBURGH** -- Hundreds of workers, including dozens of nurses, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and West Penn Allegheny Health Systems filed two federal lawsuits against their employers on Wednesday.

"The complaints allege the two health systems systematically cheated their employees out of millions of dollars," said attorney Nelson Thomas.

Thomas is a partner in Dolin, Thomas & Solomon, a Rochester, New York law firm specializing in employment law.

"These employers have been not paying their employees for half-hour meal breaks every day," Thomas said.

In the lawsuit, the workers claim the hospitals have been automatically taking money from paychecks, even though employees have been working full days. Lawyers for the employees said those deductions include overtime pay, lunch hours and back pay for the past three years.

The lawsuit currently has the support of 500 current and former employees.

UPMC had no comment on the lawsuit. However they did suggest the law firm representing the hospital employees solicited business with direct mailings to many of the nurses.

A similar class-action lawsuit was filed against Pittsburgh Mercy Healthcare System on Tuesday.

Two nurses, who worked at Mercy's flagship hospital before it became UPMC Mercy last year, filed the suit. They claim the hospital automatically gave them an unpaid 30-minute meal break each day, even though they often worked through it. The nurses want overtime pay for that and certain training programs for which they weren't paid.

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