

Baltimore BUSINESS JOURNAL[®]

Vol. 14 No. 46 © 72 PAGES

The source for local business news

MARCH 28 - APRIL 3, 1997 \$

Ex-employees press lawsuit

Former employees from Baltimore Life Insurance Co. have amended a \$150 million civil rights class action lawsuit against the Owings Mills insurer.

The revised suit, which was filed March 21 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, accuses Baltimore Life of denying insurance coverage to certain aliens. According to the lawsuit, officials from Baltimore Life told its agents in a 1994 letter that it would no longer approve life insurance policies for non-citizens.

"Defendants appeared to enforce that policy selectively, however, particularly singling out for denial persons having Middle Eastern names," documents filed by the plaintiffs said.

The amended complaint states that a Baltimore Life underwriting officer swore in an affidavit that "Baltimore Life had in force a practice that denied coverage to non-United States citizens in those few instances where Baltimore Life learned that an applicant was not a U.S. citizen."

Baltimore Life officials denied the charges. Defendants in the case include Baltimore Life; the company's president, L. John Pearson; and five other high-ranking company officials. ●

— Charles R. Wolpoff