

**GUARDS' KIN STRIKE DEAL 3 OF 4 FAMILIES SETTLE WITH BANK OVER SLAYINGS**

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The families of three of four guards killed in the United Bank massacre 2 1/2 years ago have reached an out-of-court settlement with the bank's parent corporation.

The parties in the civil lawsuit reached an agreement Friday, four days before trial was set to begin.

A condition of the settlement was that its details not be released to the public.

Lawyers for the families declined comment. Dennis Brown, attorney for Norwest Corp., United's parent company, could not be reached.

The families of the four guards - William McCullom Jr., Philip Mankoff, Scott McCarthy and Todd Wilson - sued Norwest, the Minneapolis-based company that merged with United Bank of Colorado months before the fatal heist.

Earlier in the case, Denver District Judge Connie Peterson dismissed United Bank as a defendant, citing workers' compensation rules that prevent an employee from filing such a lawsuit against an employer. However, Norwest remained a defendant.

McCarthy's widow, Jennifer, shifted her lawsuit to federal court after that ruling.

The families alleged:

Norwest ignored a bank audit that warned of insufficient "dual controls" at access points to sensitive areas. Dual controls require two people for operation.

A Norwest policy that disarmed security guards about two months before the holdup left the four guards helpless.

Guards were inadequately trained and supervised.

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