



Idearc Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. sued by retirees

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Three former Verizon Communication Inc. employees have filed suit against Yellow Pages publisher Idearc Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. The trio claims their retirement benefits were rolled under the umbrella of Idearc without their consent after the corporation spun off from Verizon in June 2006.

The class-action suit also lists as plaintiffs up to 2,000 former Verizon employees whose retirements were involuntarily switched post-retirement from Verizon's pension plans to a plan run under Idearc.

The three defendants said in a statement that two years after the retirement accounts were moved from the more financially secure Verizon to Idearc, Idearc began experiencing financial difficulties and started cutting back on earned retiree benefits, the plaintiffs claim.

Dallas-based Idearc told the *Dallas Business Journal* Monday that the company does not comment on pending litigation. Alberto Canal, a spokesman for Verizon, said Monday, "The press release issued by the Association of BellTel Retirees is unfortunately inaccurate. All of the transferred retirees, including the three named plaintiffs, retired from business entities that were separated from Verizon to form Idearc more than three years ago."

Canal added, "Verizon properly transferred their post-retirement benefit responsibility to Idearc, along with over \$750 million to fund their pension benefits. Contrary to allegations, documents were provided to these plaintiffs, as required by federal law, and their internal claims were timely reviewed. Suggestions to the contrary are incorrect and misleading to Idearc retirees."

Idearc, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009, officially emerged from bankruptcy with a new name Monday: SuperMedia Inc.

The lawsuit alleges that Verizon and Idearc breached their fiduciary duties to disclose pension plan information to the plaintiffs, failed to comply with pension plan document rules and interfered with the retirees' rights to receive Verizon pension benefits.