



# Class-Action Suit Expected Against Mass. Hospitals

By Matthew L. Brown

Worcester Business Journal Staff Writer

09/03/09

---

A Rochester, N.Y., law firm is asking employees of 26 Massachusetts hospitals to join a class-action lawsuit that claims the hospitals failed to pay employees when they worked through their lunch periods.

Thomas & Solomon LLP specializes in employment litigation and was scheduled to hold a press conference at 11 a.m. at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston. The firm claims that more than 500 employees of Partners Healthcare System, Caritas Christi, Boston Medical Center, CareGroup and UMass Memorial Health Care Inc. have signed on to the suit.

The suit intends to argue that "hospitals have been automatically taking money from the employees' paycheck each day" by allowing those employees to work through their unpaid lunch periods.

On a web site devoted to the lawsuit, Thomas & Solomon encourages hourly hospital employees that "worked at least part of a meal period and were not paid for that meal period" to sign on to the lawsuit.

A spokesman at UMass Memorial Health Care said this morning that the five-hospital group had neither seen, nor heard of the lawsuit.