

# Ex-official files U.S. suit

*Legal action is second for former  
Richmond Bank employee*

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While one suit against Richmond Bank lies pending in Madison Circuit Court, another related suit is working its way through the federal justice system.

Robert Puckett, a former vice president of Richmond Bank, filed a lawsuit last week in Lexington's U.S. District Court against Richmond Bank and Trust Co. and parent company United Bancorp of Kentucky Inc.

He claims the bank fired him because he cooperated with authorities about bank business.

Puckett is seeking damages,

reinstatement to the bank, back pay and court costs under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the suit states.

The suit makes claims similar to those found in the suit which Puckett, represented by attorney Robert L. Abell, filed Sept. 8 in Madison Circuit Court.

The federal suit says Puckett was fired by the bank June 22 for cooperating with federal and local law enforcement officials by discussing bank documents and records.

The records, involving Richmond Bank accounts, were found at a home raided for drugs, the

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## LAWSUIT

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suit alleges.

Puckett provided the officials with information that gave insight into possible violations of law, mismanagement and waste of funds, abuse of authority, and "specific danger to public health or safety" by Richmond Bank, the suit claims.

Puckett, a Richmond Bank employee for nine years, was fired soon after he informed the bank's Chief Executive Officer William E. Walters of the meeting, the suit further states.

Now, Puckett wants compensation for "his financial injuries and for the severe emotional distress, humiliation, mental anguish and loss of personal and professional reputation he has suffered and will suffer as a result of (the bank's) conduct," the suit states.

The lawsuit he filed in Madison

Circuit Court in September makes similar claims against the bank, but also accuses the bank of age discrimination against Puckett, 46.

The case, which is set for lawyers' motions to be heard Nov. 3, claims Richmond Bank has a history of discriminating against employees, customers and "would-be customers."

"I was in an age group that didn't fit the image of the bank," Puckett said after the Circuit Court suit was filed in September. "A reason of equal importance with age discrimination was my cooperation with federal authorities concerning a particular customer's account in March, but I think it's a host of reasons."

The bank took the discussion between Puckett and authorities as a "unique and advantageous" chance to fire him, although it was bank policy to cooperate with authorities, Puckett said.