

# Aloha Airlines challenges damages payment to pilot

Aloha Airlines has filed a Circuit Court lawsuit seeking to overturn an arbitration award to a fired pilot.

Aloha said pilot Harry Mathewson was fired in 1989 when company evaluators found Mathewson's "performance in the cockpit to be less than satisfactory" after learning that "he had failed tests in a pilot simulator at his previous employer."

Aloha said it fired Mathewson during his probationary period, as allowed by its contract with the pilots' union.

According to Aloha, the arbi-

trator found that Mathewson had been "blackballed" by other pilots who felt Mathewson worked during a strike at another airline. The arbitrator awarded Mathewson more than \$1 million in damages.

Albert Pattison, Aloha's vice president of human resources, said the airline was "shocked" at the award. Pattison said he felt Mathewson had been given a fair chance and that "the company simply didn't compromise where safety was an issue," and added that he believed the size of the award was "completely out of line."