



## Air Line Pilots Association, International

### Alaska Master Executive Council

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## News Release

### **Air Line Pilots Association files lawsuit against Alaska Airlines**

*Complaint asks that the arbitration decision cutting pilot pay be vacated*

SEATTLE, May 13, 2005 — The Air Line Pilots Association today filed a lawsuit against Alaska Airlines in federal District Court in Seattle. The lawsuit asks the federal court to vacate the April 30, 2005 decision that, among other things, reduced pilot pay by as much as 34 percent.

The Air Line Pilots Association contends that the Arbitration Board, with Richard Kasher as Arbitrator, violated the Railway Labor Act, which governs contracts between Airlines and their employee groups. Under the Act, a third-party arbitrator is allowed to settle contract disputes in the aviation industry. However, the Arbitration Board is required to follow rules agreed upon by the parties involved. The Complaint filed today charges that the Arbitration Board failed to follow these rules with respect to its decision on hourly wages, the issue work preservation — also known in the industry as code-sharing agreements — and the subject of profit sharing.

With respect to work preservation, the rules required the Arbitrator to find and apply the average of competitor carriers. In the decision, the Arbitrator acknowledged an average, but failed to apply that average, thereby deviating from or ignoring the negotiated rules for the arbitration. The arbitration board also was constrained in its decision by the positions presented by the Carrier and Union, but failed to follow either position regarding profit sharing.

The Complaint seeks injunctive relief and a return to the *status quo* as it existed prior to the arbitration decision.

“The Association continues to desire to work with Management to find a fair, equitable and negotiated labor agreement,” said Capt. Mark Bryant, chairman of the Alaska Airlines pilot union. “The Association hopes Management will join us in working toward that goal.”

Founded in 1931, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) represents 64,000 pilots at 41 airlines in the United States and Canada including the 1,500 pilots who fly for Alaska Airlines.

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