

# The New York Times

## Pilots Seek to Block Change in United's Pensions

Micheline Maynard (NYT)  
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The Air Line Pilots Association asked a United States Bankruptcy Court in Chicago to block a plan by United Airlines to suspend some pension payments to retired pilots. Judge Eugene R. Wedoff will hear the association's motion on Friday. Last week, United said that it would suspend nonqualified payments to about 3,000 retired pilots.

The payments are in addition to the pilots' basic pension benefits. In some cases, the nonqualified benefits are as much as one-third of a pilot's retirement compensation. The airline's move last week came after the Pension Guaranty Benefit Corporation said it would seize control of the pension plan for United's pilots, rather than allow the airline to terminate the plan.

United, which filed for bankruptcy in December 2002, wants to terminate four employee pension plans and replace them with 401(k)-style retirement programs, a move that would save millions of dollars annually. United Airlines, a unit of UAL, is based in Elk Grove Township, Ill. Micheline Maynard (NYT)