

Passenger sues American Airlines over crash-landing injuries

Because they failed to exercise reasonable care in trying to land an aircraft during poor weather conditions, an American Airlines pilot and crew overshot the runway and crash-landed, an injured passenger claims in a Florida federal court lawsuit.

Wilson v. American Airlines Inc., No. 11-CV-22739, complaint filed (S.D. Fla. July 28, 2011).

In a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Benton Wilson says the carrier failed to ensure that the pilot and crew “used standard, reasonably prudent and acceptable piloting techniques and skills.”

American Airlines Flight 331 was bound for Kingston, Jamaica, from Miami when it overshot the runway upon landing during poor weather conditions and crashed at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston.

“American did not take all necessary measures to avoid the ... incident,” the complaint says.

According to the complaint, the aircraft nearly plunged into the ocean as a result of the crash.

The impact cracked the fuselage into three parts, both engines separated from the plane and the left landing gear was crushed, the complaint says.

Wilson claims serious injuries from the crash. He filed suit under the Montreal Convention governing international air transport.



The body of American Airlines Flight AA 331, which crashed upon landing at Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport in Jamaica Dec. 23, 2009. A passenger allegedly injured in the crash has sued the airline for negligence.

The plaintiff says American Airlines failed to exercise reasonable care in operating the aircraft or properly train, supervise and monitor the pilots and flight crew.

The carrier also failed to comply with the landing instructions from air traffic controllers in Kingston and “did not take all necessary measures” to avoid the incident, according to the plaintiff.

The complaint puts forth claims under the Montreal Convention for bodily injury and lost baggage. **WJ**

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Lewis S. Eidson and Curtis B. Miner, Colson Hicks Eidson, Coral Gables, Fla.; John R. Solter Jr., Azrael, Franz, Schwab & Lipowitz, Towson, Md.

Related Court Document:

Complaint: 2011 WL 3216761

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