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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Administrative Law Judges Sustains the Unfair Labor Practice Charge  
that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Violated Federal Law**

An administrative law judge ruled Tuesday that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette violated federal law by not paying a 5% increase in the 2018 health care premium for 400 unionized employees at the newspaper.

In a 38-page ruling (see attached), Administrative Law Judge David I. Goldman ordered the company to pay the premium increase and to reimburse those adversely affected by the company's improper decision. The Company has the right to appeal.

"We hope the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette will do the right thing and pay what it is legally required by federal law and morally required as an employer," said Michael A. Fuoco, Newspaper Guild president. "We'll just have to wait and see if they follow the law and have a moral compass."

The Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, which represents 150 newsroom employees at the PG, initially filed the Unfair Labor Practice in January, charging that the PG and its owner, Block Communications, Inc. of Toledo, Ohio, violated federal law by unilaterally deciding not to pay an increase in health care during collective bargaining for a new contract. Other unions, representing another 250 members representing the Teamsters, operating engineers, pressmen, mailers, advertising and finance, joined in the ULP filing. All of the unions have been involved in bargaining with BCI for 20 months over contracts that expired March 31, 2017.

Companies involved in bargaining are required by federal law to "continue the status quo in the terms and conditions of employment while the parties negotiate for a new labor agreement," according to Judge Goldman's decision. The PG's unilateral refusal to pay the 5 percent premium increase resulted in diminished health-care benefits for the 400 union members as of April 1.

In response to the Unfair Labor Practice charge, the National Labor Relations Board regional director of the Pittsburgh office ruled in the unions' favor. BCI, under advice of union-busting Nashville, Tenn., law firm King & Ballow, which is in charge of its negotiations with the unions, advised the company to appeal. That resulted in a hearing before Judge Goldman on Aug. 21 which led to his decision.

