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For immediate release

**PANEL AWARDS COUPLE ALMOST \$5 MILLION
TO BE PAID BY BANK HOLDING COMPANY**

A three-member arbitration panel recently ordered a bank holding company to pay a husband and wife \$4,961,945.75 plus interest as the fair value of their bank shares, according to the couple's attorney, Richard W. Wiseman, named partner in the firm of Brown, Dean, Wiseman, Liser, Proctor & Hart LLP.

The names of the man and woman were not disclosed, nor was the bank's name, because the couple and their adult child did not want the fact they would be receiving millions of dollars to be made public.

Wiseman said the bank's directors had followed "an oppressive course of action" to remove the man from the board and to try to force his wife to sell their bank shares based on a "ridiculously low offer." The man suffered from degenerative dementia, and none of his family members were allowed to take his seat on the board. Previously, he had served as chairman of the bank's loan committee.

Even though public reports showed the bank to be one of the most profitable in its region, the couple frequently had its dividend check withheld. They were planning for the bank stock to be a part of a family trust for their only child and their only grandchild.

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