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URMC Involved in 2 lawsuits over former CEO

By **BRIAN JUSTICE**
City Editor

Amid controversy at Manchester's United Regional Medical Center, the former chief executive officer and a shareholder on behalf of a limited liability company with interests in the hospital have filed separate lawsuits.

Robert George, who had been the hospital's CEO until his employment was recently terminated, has filed a lawsuit in Coffee County Circuit Court seeking payment from Coffee Medical Group Company, doing business as United Regional, according to what he deems an employment agreement.

He is seeking 24 months salary and benefits. The suit says he stopped receiving compensation, according to his contract, on July 23.

The other lawsuit is by Lisa Veto, who holds a membership interest in United Regional through the Kentucky-based Fairmont Group Limited Liability Company, which has invested in the hospital.

Coffee Medical Group is also named as a nominal defendant because George, as CEO, had represented its interests.

Veto says in the lawsuit that George "breached his fiduciary duty and standard of care to the company by, among other things, failing and refusing to provide financial and business records to members of the company to which they were statutorily and contractually required to produce."

George is also accused in the lawsuit of "diverting corporate assets for his own use," failing to "fairly and accurately report the operations and financial condition of URMC and mismanagement of corporate assets."

Attempts were made by *The News* to contact George, but he was not immediately available for comment.

Veto's suit says that George's employment termination was announced at Coffee Medical Group's June 27 annual membership meeting "for reasons which the Board of Governors did not wish to discuss."

The suit says the Board of Governors has retained Quorum Health Resources to review the hospital's business operations "due to irregularities which had been discovered."

The suit says that United Regional should be required to produce all corporate records,

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