

7.5 million in airliner crash suits

Four lawsuits seeking a total of \$7.5 million in damages were filed Monday in Cook County Circuit Court against United Air Lines in connection with the Dec. 8 crash of a Boeing 737 jetliner on Chicago's Southwest Side.

The suits were the first to be filed as a result of the crash in which 45 persons were killed and 18 others injured.

The suits were filed on behalf of the families of Kenneth M. Shull, 42, of Lincoln, Neb.; Mrs. Joan Jording, 26, and her son, Derek, 7 months, of Milligan, Neb., all of whom died in the crash, and Howard H. Cristeson, 46, of 600 N. McClurg Ct., who was injured.

In addition to the airline, other defendants named in the suits were Boeing Co.; Standard Kollsman Industries,

Kollsman Instrument Corp.; Collins Radio Co.; United Aircraft Corp.; Pratt-Whitney Aircraft Division, and Sperry Rand Corp.

THE SUITS, all filed by Attorney John J. Kennedy, charged that United Air Lines "negligently maintained, operated and controlled its aircraft" and "failed to properly and adequately train its pilots and crews."

The Shull suit — asking \$2 million in damages, was filed on behalf of his wife, Shirley, 40 and children, Cindy, 9, and Robert S. Shull, chief of the production adjustment section of the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Section, was returning from a business trip when the plane crashed near Midway Airport.

The second suit sought \$3 million for the death of Mrs. Jording and \$1 million for the death of her son. It was filed on behalf of David Jording, husband and father of the victims.

Cristeson, vice president of A. G. Becker & Co., an investment firm, sought \$1.5 million in damages. Cristeson still is hospitalized with a severe fracture of the leg and internal injuries.