

# Widows' Suits in SFChronicle Quentin Deaths

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Three damage suits totaling \$69 million were filed yesterday by the widows and children of the three guards killed during George Jackson's escape attempt at San Quentin Prison last August.

The suits, filed in Marin County Superior Court, charged that negligence caused the wrongful deaths of the three correctional officers.

## LAWYER

Named as defendants were Stephen Bingham, the radical attorney accused of smuggling a gun to George Jackson; Vanita Anderson, the young woman who allegedly handed him a tape recorder before he went in to visit Jackson and the estate of Jackson, the state of California, the Department of Corrections, Marin and Monterey counties and the six inmates charged with murder and assault for their part in the breakout attempt last August 21.

All the defendants "were liable in some manner, including negligence" for the death of the three guards, the suits contend.

Each of the three \$23 million suits charge that San Quentin officials — including warden Louis S. Nelson — "knew of the fact that George Jackson and possibly other inmates were planning to attempt an escape."

## GUARDS

The prison failed to either warn the three guards or to take proper steps to protect them, the suits alleged.

And the state of California, the Department of Corrections and Marin and Monterey counties "created and/or maintained dangerous conditions at San Quentin," the suits continued. They also charge that the civil rights of the slain guards were violated as a result of negligence.

The suits were filed by attorney Raymond L. Bright of San Francisco of behalf of Frances Krasenes, the widow of guard Paul Krasenes, and her three children; Vivian DeLeon, widow of guard Frank DeLeon, and her four children; and Helen R. Graham, widow of guard Jere P. Graham, and her three children.