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## Hughes' Role in Suit Is Doubtful

U.S. District Judge Alfonso Zirpoli said yesterday chances of getting Howard Hughes here for questioning about Hughes Air West Airlines stock lawsuits appear very poor.

Nevertheless, he said, he will sign an order directing Hughes to appear if the attorneys for the persons suing Hughes request it.

"However, I don't expect him to appear," he added.

Last March, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a \$150 million suit alleging Hughes, his former associates and his Summa Corp. violated securities laws in buying the airline.

The order, Zirpoli said, will direct Hughes to appear to have his deposition taken on February 17. He also said he would hear a defense motion February 13 seeking to prevent Hughes from having to appear.