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By Jeff Leeds

**9,000 Quake Claims: Insurance Firm Sets Aside \$60 Million for Class-Action Suit**

**Allstate Insurance will review 9,000 quake claims filed by policy holders as a result of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The class-action suit was filed after an investigation was triggered by whistle-blower and 25-year employee testified in a sworn deposition that engineers were instructed to alter reports on damages to buildings.**

Allstate general counsel Robert W. Pike insisted that Allstate itself was the victim of fraud carried out by at least two of the firms Allstate hired to inspect the damages policy holders were claiming.

William M. Shernoff, speaking on behalf of all law firms representing homeowners in the class-action stated, "from our point of view, if Allstate hire them, they're (Allstate) legally responsible for their conduct."