

**Eisners sued for \$1.9M by Carrollton Bank in Baltimore City Circuit Court.
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Byline: Louis Llovio

Carrollton Bank has filed suit against Steven C. and Sara M. Eisner, claiming the couple owes more than \$1.9 million for defaulting on a \$4 million loan after their Baltimore ad agency dissolved. In papers filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court, the bank claims the couple failed to make good on the loan signed Nov. 30, 2004. The loan was to the ad agency, Eisner Communications, but the couple signed as personal guarantors. The suit claims that the bank has been trying to collect from the Eisners since late last year but the couple has been unresponsive. Carrollton said the Eisners have "failed, neglected and refused" to pay the balance. The lawsuit asks for the nearly \$2 million balance, plus interest, collection charges and attorney's fees of more than \$288,000. The Eisners' attorney, Andrew M. Dansicker of Schulman, Treem, Kaminkow, Gilden & Ravenell P.A., said Tuesday that the couple hadn't paid simply because they were not able to. "It's pretty obvious they don't have the assets," he said. Eisner Communications went under after a series of financial problems following the loss of its largest account, US Airways Group, in 2006. The account was worth about \$20 million a year to the agency, and its loss sent the company's finances spiraling out of control. The Eisners tried to restructure but were unable to save the agency, which closed its doors in November 2006 after 66 years in Baltimore. With it went the couple's personal wealth. Attempts to reach the Eisners Tuesday were unsuccessful, but at the time of the closing, Sara Eisner said in an e-mail exchange with The Daily Record that the family had lost everything. "We invested everything we had into this business," she wrote. "Now we need to start over." The sudden closure left almost 80 people out of a job and without their final paycheck. It has also left Eisners' attorneys busy, as there are about 20 lawsuits totaling several million dollars from vendors and creditors pending. The bank, though, could be the least of the Eisners' problems.

According to the Baltimore office of the FBI, the bureau is looking into the agency's final days for signs of malfeasance. Special Agent Michelle Crnkovich said Tuesday she was not sure what sparked the investigation.

But Dansicker said neither he nor the Eisner couple has been contacted.

He said they weren't too worried, because it was "nothing out of the ordinary" for investigations to follow the dramatic end to such a high-profile company. Along with the lawsuit, Carrollton filed a motion for summary judgment, claiming it had enough evidence to back up its claims without having to go to trial. A call to the bank's attorney, Robert J. Parsons II of the law firm Rogers, Moore & Rogers LLP, was not

returned Tuesday afternoon. Carrollton Bank representatives also did not return a call for comment.