

Century Park Place condo owners to garner \$15 million in defect suit.
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CENTURY CITY - Settling a three-year-old construction defect lawsuit, homeowners at the Century Park Place luxury highrise condominium complex in Century City are set to recover at least \$15.2 million.

Attorney Thomas E. Miller, who represented the Century Park Place Condominium Association, said insurance companies representing the project's developer and its two general contractors have agreed to pay the homeowner group \$15.22 million to help repair the likes of defective drainage, leaky roofs, windows and decks, structural framing deficiencies, cracked stucco and faulty plumbing, wiring and sprinklers.

Miller said the settlement reached about two weeks ago is the largest involving a construction defect matter in Los Angeles history.

The settlement prohibits his clients from identifying the developer, but public records indicate the primary defendants in the Los Angeles Superior Court suit are Century Hill North Co., Consolidated Partners and Watt Industries Inc. The Watt group, based in Santa Monica, has been one of the Southland's most active homebuilders over the last several decades.

The 416-unit complex along Century Park Lane near Avenue of the Stars was developed in two phases completed between 1988 and 1992. Units originally sold for \$450,000 to \$950,000.

Pasadena-based Ray Wilson Co. and Pleasanton-headquartered Dillingham Construction N.A. Inc. were the phases' respective general contractors.

Calls left at Watt's Santa Monica headquarters weren't returned. Officials at the Dillingham and Wilson firms weren't available for comment. Attorney Miller, who

said he has helped Southern California homeowners associations collect more than \$100 million in construction defect awards, noted that a portion of the Century Park Plaza recovery will come from subcontractors, architects and engineers who performed work at the project.

He added that claims totaling more than \$3 million against a Century Park Plaza framing subcontractor, Lee Bolin, will proceed to trial in Superior Court Judge Richard Harris' court.

Merv R. Thompson had been appointed to manage and mediate the case, and was instrumental in bringing about the settlement, Miller continued.

"We are gratified with the outcome of the lawsuit," commented Dr. Spencer Koerner, president of the association's board. "We now look forward to the task of deciding how best to fix the problems."