

Erpenbeck^N

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The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati overturned Beckwith's ruling on Thursday and ordered her to hold a new hearing to determine who should get the money. The appeals court judges said Erpenbeck's creditors were never notified of the government's seizure and are entitled to make their case for the cash through the bankruptcy trustee.

"The trustee received no notice, and we believe

he has a powerful claim to the money," said Debra Pleatman, who appealed on behalf of the creditors.

In addition to the banks, which also could receive money through a forfeiture, the creditors include several businesses and contractors Erpenbeck failed to pay.

Federal prosecutors said the fight now is over who gets to distribute the money, either the bankruptcy trustee or Beckwith through forfeiture proceedings.

No date has been set for the hearing that will determine the fate of the cash.

Clipped By:



jerrwilliamsauthor
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