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By The Associated Press

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pg. 35

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A union for lawyers who represent poor people in civil suits has ended a three-week old strike after voting to accept an offer that one union member called "an insult."

The 350 lawyers and support-staff employees of Legal Services of New York accepted a contract on Thursday that provides no raise in 1994 and a 2.5 percent wage increase in the last six months of 1995, said a union spokeswoman, Gloria Ramakus. She called the contract offer "an insult."

Ms. Ramakus said the union, whose contract expired on June 30, had been seeking salary increases of 2.5 percent in each year of the contract and an improved health care plan. The strike started Nov. 30.

The lawyers, who are paid an average of \$44,000 a year, struck after

managers of the publicly financed agency said they could not afford across-the-board wage increases.

The lawyers work in 16 offices and represent about 30,000 indigent litigants a year in housing, Medicaid, negligence and other civil suits.

During the strike lawyers who are in management turned away more than 80 percent of the people who sought civil legal assistance, estimated Dale Johnson, executive director of Legal Services.