

Attorneys for the family of a man shot and killed by park rangers in 2017 are filing suit against the Buffalo National River.

The suit, announced today by attorneys Mike Laux and David Ransin, is a civil suit against the United States and the Buffalo National River over the death of Jonathan Bolger, who was camping with his girlfriend and her children when two park rangers confronted him and one fatally shot him.

According to an exhibit from the lawsuit, Ransin initially asked in 2019 for a \$15 million settlement but was denied by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Criminal charges have never been filed.

Speaking on the lawsuit announced today in a news conference, Laux said the testimony given by the ranger who killed Bolger, such as Bolger pointing a pellet gun at him is questionable.

**NEWS06****:14****“...body camera”**

“I have never in my career seen a police officer’s account of a police involved shooting so entirely refuted by objective evidence, in this case his own body camera,” Laux said.

A part of this case uses the Federal Tort Claims Act, which according to Laux, uses a standard of negligence in finding culpability. This standard is easier to prove in a case as opposed to a reasonableness standard.

**NEWS07****:13****“...the incident”**

“You’ll see the big difference is in this complaint we allege negligence in the approach to the incident. We allege negligence in the preparation of the incident.”

Other than that difference of standard, Laux said they plan to approach this case as they normally would.