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Scientists Sue Times, 2 Reporters for \$1 Million

The Church of Scientology Wednesday filed a \$1 million lawsuit in Los Angeles federal court against Times Mirror and two Times reporters, alleging conspiracy to interfere with civil rights.

The lawsuit stems from a series of articles dealing with the Church of Scientology written by reporters Robert Rawitch and Robert Gillette and published earlier this week in The Times.

The lawsuit charged that the reporters acted in concert with representatives of the FBI and the Department of Justice to publish information about the government's investigation of the church, which resulted in the indictments two weeks ago of 11 high-ranking church members.

According to the lawsuit, the articles were intended to create "an unfavorable climate" regarding the church, thereby influencing and prejudicing members of the judiciary who must rule on litigation involving the Church of Scientology.