

Court reseals sect papers

A California state court Monday granted an emergency stay and resealed about 500 documents that had been unsealed last week by a Superior Court judge.

The papers, tapes and historical documents were unsealed last week in a case brought by the sect against former Scientology archivist Gerald Armstrong. The sect and its founder's wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, sued Armstrong to recover about 10,000 pages of documents he took when he fled the Clearwater-based sect in late 1981. Many of the contested papers belonged to Mrs. Hubbard's husband and sect founder, L. Ron Hubbard.

The sect contended Armstrong stole the papers, but Superior Court Judge Paul Breckenridge ruled that Armstrong was justified in taking the papers and unsealed the 500 documents that were entered as exhibits in the nine-week trial.

Scientology attorney John Peterson said late Monday that the documents will remain sealed under Monday's order granted by the 2nd District Court of Appeal until the appellate court decides the church's request for a more permanent stay of Breckenridge's decision.

The papers were in the process of being catalogued following Breckenridge's ruling and had not been made available to the public.