Ex-Scientologist Charges Harassment, Sues Church

A former follower of the controversial Church of Scientology has filed suit claiming she was harassed and shamed into contributing more than \$7,000 to the church.

Saundra Haynes, in a fraud suit filed Thursday by attorney Hiram M. Martin, claimed that she went along with the urgings because she hoped the church's "auditing" procedures would enable her to "go clear," as the church calls it, and "rid her of her deep depressions and suicidal attempts."

At one point, she claimed in the Los Angeles Superior Court suit, she was told she would save money if she prepaid for the "auditing."

She claimed that amounted to fraud because she did not save money "since other persons received the same offer for less money."

The suit also claims the church did not make qualified "auditors" available to her and demanded she pay another \$4,000 before she could go on to advanced procedures necessary to "go clear."

Ms. Haynes said she later learned her emotional problems were caused by a physically caused hormonal imbalance, something the church was unable to treat.

The suit asks for \$7,059 in actual and \$100,000 in punitive damages.