

LAW

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CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY sues Time Warner for libel.

The church seeks \$416 million in punitive damages for an April 1991 cover story in Time magazine, a unit of Time Warner Inc. The article called the church a "Mafia-

like" cult and alleged criminal activities by its leaders. The suit alleges that a biased reporter was put on the story and that the article was false and defamatory.

A spokesman for Time, based in New York, said the magazine stands by the article and considers it "thoroughly researched."

The church tried in October to subpoena the article's author, Richard Behar, as part of a suit against the Internal Revenue Service. In the suit, the church claimed it was unfairly treated by the IRS. A federal judge quashed the subpoena, citing New York's press shield laws.

The church also has filed libel suits against several sources quoted in the Time story.