HON. JUSTICE LAURIE SELBER SCHLABEIN,

I write this letter to explain my views of the Boy Scouts of Today, vs. as a Boy Scout in the late 50's & early 60's.

When I was active as a Boy Scout, the environment in this country was miles apart from where it is today. I started as a Scout in a small town in Mississippi. The troop was based & sponsored at my church. Our Scout Master was a WWII Vet. He was strong in character, a Christian man, & very dedicated to the Scout Program. This man was so dedicated to the Scouts that he remained a Scout Master for the same troop for 30+ years. He expected dedication from the Assistant Scout Master & the Scouts in his troop.

We took part in monthly camp outs in any kind of weather. These outings were educational in nature & as we grew older in the program we became strong, honest, reliable, & disciplined young men.

When I was 11 years old my family moved to Tyler, TX. The church we joined had a strong Scouting Program, much like the troop I left.

After about 2 years in this new troop a new Assistant Scout Master joined our troop. That was when things began to change. On our camp outs, on one particular outing, this new Assistant Scout Master...
SCOUT MASTER CAME INTO MY TENT
WHILE I WAS ALONE + SEXUALLY ASSAULTED
ME. I WAS 13 YRS OLD AT THE TIME
& AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE.
AFTER SEVERAL MORE CAMP OUTS
SOME OF THE OTHER SCOUTS + I BEGAN
TO TALK AMONGST OURSELVES & DISCOVERED
THIS MAN HAD ASSAULTED ABOUT 6 SCOUTS
IN ALL. WE BANNED TOGETHER ONE NIGHT
ON ANOTHER OUTING, WAITED UNTIL HE WAS
ASLEEP, WENT INTO HIS TENT + GRABBED
HIS SLEEPING BAG. WE TIED THE OPENING
OF HIS SLEEPING BAG CLOSED + DRAGGED
HIM INTO THE WOODS + LEFT HIM IN THE
RAIN. HE NEVER RETURNED TO OUR
SCOUTING PROGRAM. I DON'T KNOW
WHETHER IT WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT WE
DID OR IF THE PARENTS FOUND OUT
ABOUT HIM.

IN THOSE DAYS THINGS LIKE SEXUAL
ASSAULT ON MINORS WAS NOT OPENLY
DISCUSSED, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE
PURITAN MINDSET OF THE 50'S + EARLY
60'S.

AS THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
OF THE COUNTRY BECAME MORE LIBERAL,
THERE WERE INDIVIDUALS ENTERING
THE SCOUT PROGRAM THAT CHANGED
THE BASELINE OF WHAT THE BOY SCOUTS
STOOD FOR. MORE + MORE PEDOPHILES
+ GAYS LOOKING FOR EASY TARGETS
WERE ALLOWED IN. SOME OF THEM WERE
WEEDED OUT BECAUSE OF THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THE YOUNG *MEN*, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM. EVEN FEMALES WERE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE BOY SCOUTS.

MY IMPRESSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF TODAY IS THAT IT IS ONLY A SHADOW OF WHAT IT ONCE WAS AND WAS MEANT TO BE. I FEEL THE BOY SCOUTS HAVE FAILED TO PROPERLY NURTURE THEIR LEADERSHIP IN ORDER TO FILL SOME QUOTA FOR TYPES OF LEADERS OR TO TRY TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE A "MORE INCLUSIVE" ORGANIZATION. IN DOING SO THEY HAVE CAUSED UNDUE AND IN SOME CASES IRREPARABLE HARM TO MANY YOUNG MEN AND BOYS.

IN RELATION TO THIS CASE I FEEL THE BOY SCOUTS ARE TRYING TO DODGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND THEY ARE DRAGGING THIS CASE OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN HOPE WE WILL GIVE UP AND GO AWAY.

CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH THE SCOUTS HAS HAPPENED IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED OR COVERED UP. IT IS TIME FOR THIS ORGANIZATION TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CRIMES AND ABUSES AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE JOINING A REPUTABLE ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD HELP THEM GROW INTO RESPONSIBLE YOUNG MEN, BUT INSTEAD HARMED
I hope you will see fit to hold them responsible for their actions, regardless of when they occurred, and not let them get away with their schemes or brag this cut until the victims lose all hope.

I have carried this weight for most of my life and now I'm hoping for some closure.

Thank you.

Claim Number - SA-