

**From CWA.org**  
**Sexual Orientation and American Culture 7/10/2002**  
**By Robert Knight**

### **Assailing the Scouts**

The first victims of any “sexual orientation” law are the Boy Scouts, who have good reason to keep their leadership free from men attracted sexually to males.

“Sexual orientation” laws turn the Boy Scouts into bad guys overnight. In California, the state Supreme Court is considering banning all state judges from associating with the Boy Scouts because the Scouts are exempt from a statewide “sexual orientation” law. Good judges (mostly fathers) are being told to hang up their gavels or stop associating with this “hate group.” Are they a hate group or are they just trying to prevent what happened in the Catholic Church.

Even though they won a U.S. Supreme Court case in June 2000 that affirmed that the Boy Scouts of America have a right to set their own membership standards, the Scouts have been under attack in many places for resisting homosexuals’ demands for inclusion. In virtually all cases, critics of the Scouts point to laws or policies containing the term “sexual orientation.”

In September, 2002 the Berkeley, California, City Council pulled the low-cost lease for city dock space for the Sea Scouts, saying that the group is associated with the Boy Scouts, and thereby violates the city’s “sexual orientation” law.

In June, 2001, The District of Columbia’s Commission on Human Rights fined the Scouts \$100,000 and ordered them to reinstate two openly homosexual leaders. That decision was overturned in court, but the Scouts paid heavy legal fees.

In Broward County, Florida, in March 2001, the Scouts were forced to sue after county commissioners barred their access to public schools in the fall of 2000.

The Ann Arbor, Michigan City Council cut ties in August 2001 to the local United Way for their refusal to eject the Scouts from the United Way program.

More than two dozen chapters of United Way have cut off the Scouts, and at least 359 school districts with a total of 4,418 schools in 10 states have taken action against the Scouts, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Former Vice President Al Gore pledged someday to use the proposed

Employment Non-Discrimination Act – a bill to empower the federal government to ban discrimination based on “sexual orientation” in all workplaces with 15 or more employees, to force the Scouts to admit homosexuals.

Despite all the media-driven attacks, most Americans support the Scouts’ right to set their own moral standards. In an October 2000 Chicago Tribune poll of Chicago-area residents, “82 percent said the Scouts should be allowed to meet in schools and other public buildings. Only 10 percent disagreed, and 7 percent had no opinion.”

People who engage in homosexual behavior have the same BASIC rights as other citizens, but should not be given SPECIAL RIGHTS that create so many unnecessary problems for others.