

Capt. Coppola Sues Time, Inc., For \$5 Million

State Police Capt. Roland F. Coppola filed suit today in Federal District Court seeking damages of \$5 million from Time Inc. for an alleged libelous article which appeared in Life Magazine on Sept. 29, 1967.

Coppola claims that in the Life article he was linked with Carlos Marcello in a story entitled "Brazen Empire of Crime."

THE ARTICLE purported to show an expose of "extensive criminal and nefarious activities of the criminal society known as the Cosa Nostra in and about Lafayette, La."

Coppola claims he is a career police officer, having served since November, 1952, with an unblemished record and has risen to the rank of captain in command of Troop I in Lafayette.

"In the said article the

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said defendant did link the name of complainant with that of one Carlos Marcello who was reported in said article to be Cosa Nostra's top man in Louisiana in such a way as to create the necessary and inescapable impression that certain of the criminal activities of the said Marcello and the said Cosa Nostra, alleged to be conducted in and about Lafayette, La., were made possible by the connivance of the complainant with Marcello and the Cosa Nostra."

The suit charges that the defendant inescapably implied in the article that criminal activities were made possible only by Coppola's dereliction in his duties as captain of the state police troop.

IT IS alleged that the article was "false and libelous," and achieved wide notoriety in Louisiana and throughout the country. It is claimed that "after the publication and as a result of the article Gov. John J. McKeithen met in New York with employes of Time Inc., and that certain employes of the publishing company made slanderous and false statements to the governor which resulted in Coppola's summary suspension."

The suit was filed by New Orleans Attorney Russell Schonekas.