



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Texas

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May 23, 2003

Ms. Sandy Rios, President  
Ms. Janet M. LaRue, Chief Counsel  
Concerned Women for America  
1015 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Rios and Ms. LaRue:

I received your letter dated April 30, 2003, asking for information about obscenity crimes under investigation or which are currently being prosecuted by this office, based on complaints received at the Morality in Media (MIM) web site which were forwarded to this office as well as the Child Exploitation Obscenity Section (CEOS) of the Department of Justice. As you are no doubt aware, the prosecution of child exploitation and obscenity is a priority of the Department of Justice, and of the U. S. Attorney Office for the Northern District of Texas. Prosecutors in this office work with state and federal law enforcement and CEOS to aggressively investigate and prosecute individuals and companies who manufacture and distribute obscene materials.

This office is unable to comment on any pending obscenity investigations. However, I can represent to you that this district is currently investigating several cases involving the on-line dissemination of obscene materials. I anticipate public disclosure of one or more charged cases in the not too distant future.

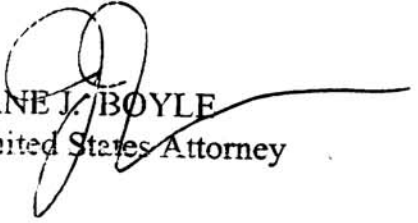
I hope you understand that the majority of the obscenity complaints received directly by this office from MIM and others are not prosecutable due to the difficulty in identifying the individuals and companies that create and distribute the obscene materials. Frequently, these criminals are located outside the U.S. and beyond our prosecutorial reach, or venue is appropriate in another district. Sometimes the on-line tracking of these parties results in a dead end. Other reasons that obscenity complaints may not be prosecuted are that venue may not exist in the Northern District of Texas, or the objectionable materials may not meet the Supreme Court's criteria which were set out in *Miller v. California*.

I appreciate your inquiry about obscenity prosecutions. A lot of our resources are directed to combating child exploitation on-line; however this office takes all complaints about on-line distribution of obscene materials very seriously. The U. S. Attorney's

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Office will continue to make the illegal distribution of obscene materials a priority, and we will investigate and prosecute those individuals and companies that violate federal law whenever possible.

Yours truly,



JANE J. BOYLE  
United States Attorney