

LOS ANGELES
ENGINEER

STAT

An aerospace engineer who claimed his "special access" security clearance was revoked because the CIA learned he was a homosexual filed suit Monday to win back his position.

John Green, 50, said in his U.S. District Court suit that he was never asked his sexual preference during his 14 years with TRW Electronics Defense Sector, a Redondo Beach, Calif., defense contractor.

"I always felt that the government knew all about me," Green said at a news conference. "They never came and asked any questions."

Green's attorney, John McDermott, said the CIA revoked Green's clearance after he was listed as a reference by a roommate seeking security clearance for a TRW job. During an interview, the roommate divulged Green was gay.

The suit, asking that Green's "special access programs" clearance be reinstated, may become a landmark since the courts have never directly addressed the issue of security clearance and sexual preference, his attorney said.

"The incredible thing is that the CIA never asked him what his sexual preference was during the whole thing," McDermott said.

McDermott said he will stress that the agency's alleged policy against homosexuals not only violates individual rights by endangers national security.

By refusing security clearance to employees who admit being homosexual, the CIA actually causes homosexuals to "remain in the closet" and subsequently become likely candidates for blackmail, the attorney said.