

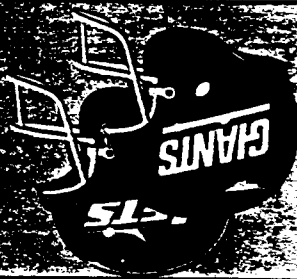
# THE REPORTER DISPATCH

**COMMUNITY** ★ ★ ★

- Great work by...
- for...
- Despite...
- Lawyer...
- A look at...
- Local...

**SPORTS**

Giants draft defense  
lets go  
for speed



Mets blank  
Expos, 5-0

Yanks fall  
10-4, 8

**LIFESTYLES**

People who  
donate  
organs to  
strangers

# Lawyer ordered back to court despite illness

**By Deborah Pines**

Staff Writer

A state judge Friday ordered long-delayed contempt-of-court proceedings against a White Plains divorce lawyer to resume May 21 despite the lawyer's claim that she was medically incapacitated.

In a strongly worded six-page decision, state Supreme Court Justice Samuel G. Fredman said he was convinced that Doris Sassower, 57, "is quite capable, physically and mentally, of defending her position to its conclusion, if she chooses to do so."

The contempt proceedings are to resume before Fredman with testimony on whether Sassower should pay damages for keeping a former client's file after she was ordered to give it to the woman's new lawyer.

Fredman said if Sassower, a former president of the New York state Women's Bar Association, could not represent herself, she could retain counsel.

"This case continues to torture



**Doris Sassower**

the court's calendar and unfairly consume excessive amounts of its time, but the duty exists to carry it to its logical conclusion," Fredman wrote.

Fredman's decision follows an April 13 hearing he called to examine the medical reasons Sassower had given for delaying three times the contempt proceedings that began against her July 27.

During the hearing, Fredman questioned Sassower's psychiatrist about his diagnosis and about reports that Sassower has handled at least two cases since her professed medical leave in November for "major depression."

Last week, Sassower's daughter, Elena Sassower, said her mother had done only the most minimal work on cases and only when threatened by a judge with a dismissal. She said that her mother had been hospitalized and that her health problems were legitimate.