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Gannett Suburban Newspapers/Thursday, April 2, 1992

Lawyer faces contempt charge

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Suspended White Plains lawyer Doris L. Sassower is to appear in court tomorrow to face contempt charges unless she complies with a settlement reached with a former client.

State Supreme Court Justice Nicholas Colabella gave Sassower until tomorrow to find legal representation and present her defense against charges that she has not signed papers relating to a \$700,000 settlement with former client Kathleen C. Wolstencroft.

Although the money has been paid by Sassower's insurance agency, Colabella can fine and imprison her tomorrow if he finds Sassower in contempt for not signing the documents.

After a seven-week trial, Sassower agreed Dec. 13 to settle with her former client for \$700,000 and sign release documents for Wolstencroft and her attorney, Joel Martin Aurnou. On Friday, Aurnou told Colabella he brought contempt charges against Sassower because she repeatedly refused to sign the releases.

Sassower is also facing a \$100,000 fine on charges she brought a "frivolous" case before U.S. District Justice Gerard Goettel in White Plains. She has appealed that fine.