

Court denies petition by suspended lawyer

By Bruce Golding
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court yesterday refused to consider White Plains lawyer Doris L. Sassower's challenge of her professional suspension.

The court's nine justices denied without comment a petition by Sassower, who said her indefinite suspension — now in effect almost four years — was illegal retribution for her work for judicial reform.

Sassower, 62, expressed disappointment at the ruling from Washington. She said her case deserved to be heard because of the serious issues involved, including her allegations of judicial corruption related to her suspension.

"It's a sad day in America when the Bill of Rights is shredded by the state courts and the highest court in the land looks away," she said.

Sassower, a former president of the New York Women's Bar Association, has been suspended since June 1991 for refusing to undergo a court-ordered competency examination stemming from allegations of professional misconduct against her.



Doris L. Sassower

Gary Casella, chief counsel of the 9th Judicial District Grievance Committee, which recommended Sassower's suspension, declined to comment on the high court ruling yesterday.

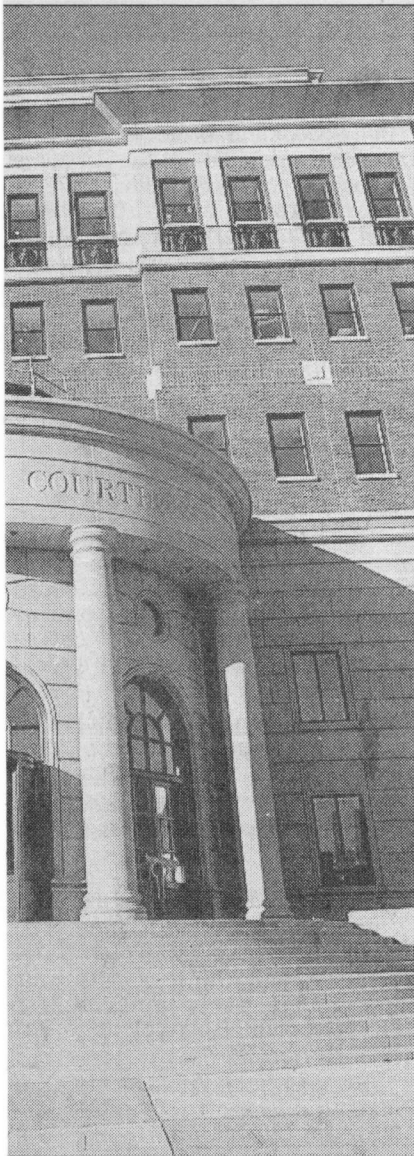
Presiding Appellate Division Justice Guy J. Mangano, who was named as lead respondent in Sassower's Supreme Court case, could not be reached, although Alan Chevat, an aide, said it was unlikely that the judge would discuss the matter.

Sassower said she intended to continue challenging her professional suspension in both the federal and state court systems. She also said she would step up efforts to draw attention to her case, saying, "The court of public opinion is where my ultimate vindication will lie."

Since her suspension, Sassower and her daughter, Elena, founded the not-for-profit Center for Judicial Accountability, which last year published an ad in The New York Times promoting its activities.

Both mother and daughter also have been guests on the Jay Diamond radio show on WABC-AM.

About 7,000 cases a year are submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, which typically hears and rules on fewer than 120.



Staff file photo/Joe Larese

to take place in June at the new
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