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11 pages

TO: Roland Miller, Editor, Westchester Section
The New York Times

FROM: Doris L. Sassower, Director

DATE: October 19, 1998

RE: "Lawyer's Challenge"
10/18/98, Westchester Weekly, NYT

This is to request that you immediately telephone me in regard to Elsa Brenner's above-entitled story, which is not only pitifully inadequate, but libelous *per se*. In particular, I direct your attention to Ms. Brenner's allegedly factual statement, referring to me, that "She was disbarred ..." By copy of this fax to Ms. Brenner, I reiterate the phone message left on her voice mail earlier today, that she identify the basis for such defamatory statement.

I am not now -- and have never been disbarred -- and I specifically corrected Ms. Brenner's false impression on that subject, when she initiated a phone call to me on Thursday, October 8th. In that conversation, Ms. Brenner informed me of her intention to report on the U.S. Supreme Court's denial of my cert petition. My telephone conversation with Ms. Brenner on October 8th was fairly lengthy and was followed up by my daughter's conversation with her immediately thereafter.

Because Ms. Brenner's interest was based on the Supreme Court's denial of my cert petition, both my conversation with her, as well as my daughter's, highlighted the issue the petition presented: the corruption of the Second Circuit, both on the district and appellate level, which, by fraudulent decisions, "threw" my federal challenge to the illegal and retaliatory suspension of my state law license. Both of us emphasized the fraud of State Attorney General Vacco, documented in the record before the Supreme Court.

My daughter arranged to hand-deliver to Ms. Brenner's home a copy of the record before the Supreme Court -- which she did the following day, under a coverletter, reiterating the essential issues for coverage. This included the Supreme Court's failure to adjudicate a recusal application addressed to

the Justices -- a full copy of which was transmitted.

Likewise transmitted was a copy of my criminal complaint filed with the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section, against the federal judges and other public officials, including, most particularly, against Attorney General Vacco.

It goes without saying that the transmitted materials -- and, specifically, the verified complaint reprinted in full in the cert petition -- make evident that I was not "disbarred". Moreover, they make evident Ms. Brenner's suppression of the real story as to the Supreme Court's denial of the cert petition and the transcending public interest issues of governmental and judicial integrity that were before the Court.

From the time Ms. Brenner received those materials on October 9th, she never saw fit to call me and, on Friday, October 16th, returned my daughter's telephone call, with inexplicable testiness and hostility.

When you telephone me, my daughter will separately recount for you Ms. Brenner's offensive and dishonest behavior to her on the phone on October 16th, which she reported to me. Suffice to say, that Ms. Brenner initially claimed to have "discarded" the documentary materials we provided her and stated she had "no opinion" about them and would not give any recommendation for a more substantial story by the Times.

For immediate purposes, I enclose, for your convenience, a copy of Ms. Brenner's October 18th story and my daughter's October 9th letter, including its three appended documents, among them, the New York Times' only prior report of my suspension by its publication of the Center for Judicial Accountability's \$16,770 paid public interest ad, "*Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law?*", on the Op-Ed page of its October 26, 1994 issue.

DORIS L. SASSOWER, Director

Enclosures

cc: Elsa Brenner
Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., Publisher
By Fax: 212-556-1434

Sunday, New York Times (Westchester ed)
10/18/98

Lawyer's Challenge

For the second time in three years, the Supreme Court of the United States has turned down a request from a White Plains lawyer, Doris L. Sassower, to hear a legal challenge of her professional disciplining. Without comment, the court denied a petition from Mrs. Sassower, who said that judges and other officials have denied her civil rights by continuing to suspend her license.

A former president of the New York Women's Bar Association, Ms. Sassower was suspended from practicing law in June 1991. She was disbarred shortly before she was to argue in the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, against the practice of opposing political parties cross-endorsing local judges and agreeing on a single slate of judicial candidates. The state's lowest court, the Supreme Court, allows such practice.

In papers submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, the 66-year-old lawyer said the disciplining that was imposed on her was unfair, retaliatory and meant to cause her to cease her activities in exposing judicial corruption.

Mrs. Sassower, founder of the nonprofit Center for Judicial Accountability, a nonprofit reform group, was recently named a Giraffe for her risk-taking civic activism by the Giraffe Project in Washington State.

The Giraffe Project said: "Sassower stuck her neck out for decades as a pioneer in the women's movement and for family law reform. But her 35-year career at the bar ended after she brought a lawsuit against the two major political parties for their manipulation of 1990 judicial elections in New York State's Ninth Judicial District." ■

ELSA BRENNER