

Legal Times April 26, 2004

Copyright 2004 ALM Properties, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Legal Times

April 26, 2004

#### QUICK CONVICTION

A D.C. Superior Court jury last week convicted judicial activist Elena Sassower of one count of disrupting Congress. After a four-day trial, the jury deliberated for just two hours before finding Sassower guilty of the misdemeanor. The 47-year-old White Plains, N.Y., resident faces a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$500 fine. The government argued that Sassower intentionally disrupted a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in May 2003 when she stood up and asked to testify in opposition to a judicial nominee. Sassower, who defended herself, repeatedly challenged the rulings and patience of Superior Court Judge Brian Holeman during the trial. At one point, Holeman had Sassower locked up during the lunch hour. She says she will appeal, claiming the judge's actions prevented her from receiving a fair trial by cutting short her opening remarks, closing argument, and direct testimony from the witness stand. Holeman declines comment, but at one point at the end of the trial the judge said to Sassower, "You had ample opportunity to put evidence forth in this case."

-- Tom Schoenberg