

Law Offices

~~SASSOWER & SASSOWER~~

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July 9th, 1977

Hon. Louis J. Lefkowitz
Attorney General
State of New York
Capitol Building,
Albany, New York, 12224

Re: Sassower v. Signorelli

Honorable Sir:

Pending is the above matter which I believe warrants a high echelon policy determination by your office.

Your office has been given the burden of sustaining a summary criminal contempt of court adjudication and sentence.

I verily believe that your very able Assistant Attorney General, Leonard J. Pugatch, Esq. is of the opinion that the aforementioned adjudication and sentence is constitutionally invalid.

I verily believe that every one of your Assistant Attorney Generals familiar with the matter share that opinion.

I verily believe that you will not find one of your Assistant Attorney Generals or Law Interns who would come to a contrary conclusion.

I do not believe that even your statutory client-judge believes otherwise.

There just happen to be too many decisions by the United States Supreme Court directly on point of the numerous defects in this adjudication and sentence to validly argue otherwise.

Except for the ulterior motives of your statutory client-judge, your office would, I have little doubt, candidly state to the Supreme Court (where the habeas corpus and Article 78 proceeding is pending) that petitioner's writ and petition should be sustained.

Hon. Louis J. Lefkowitz

Re: Sassower v. Signorelli.

Only because a judge-client is involved do I believe that your office is being less than candid with the Supreme Court.

So that I am eminently clear on the point let me state that if there was any question as to the legal invalidity of such criminal contempt, I would not question your right or duty to the expenditure of the extraordinary time, money, and effort to defeat my applications.

The number of needless trips made by your Assistant Attorney General to Riverhead from his home or his office in Manhattan at the request of your judge-client at taxpayers expense is an outrage. Other practices being followed by your office only at the request of your judge-client, contrary to the practices at bar and contrary to human decency, should not be condoned.

Your judge-client is entitled to the best representation that your office can legally and morally afford, and equal to the representation that you afford others, no more no less.

Because your client is a judge does not compel you to subvert your duty of complete candor.

I recognize and sympathize with the dilemma of your Assistant Attorney General and believe that he should be given your personal direction and guidance in this respect.

In being given this assignment, your Assistant Attorney General has been placed in a position of being too easily intimidated by your arrogant judge-client who is taking advantage of his position and your office.

Respectfully yours,


GEORGE SASSOWER

GS/bh

cc: Leonard J. Pugatch, Esq.

Certified Mail.