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Judge gives Sassower pay-or-jail order

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Suspended White Plains lawyer Doris L. Sassower was fined \$10,250 yesterday for contempt of court and ordered by a judge to pay by 2 p.m. today or go to jail.

State Supreme Court Justice Nicholas Colabella wrote in a five-page order that Sassower must pay the fine because she

had repeatedly refused to sign papers relating to a \$700,000 malpractice settlement with ex-client Kathleen C. Wolstencroft.

Wolstencroft's attorney, Joel Martin Aurnou, brought the contempt charges against Sassower because she repeatedly refused to sign release documents for him and his client. Releases are legal documents that prohibit the signer from countersuing other parties in a case.

Describing Sassower's continued legal objections as "sophistic," Colabella wrote that he would issue a warrant for her arrest if she did not appear in court to pay the fine, which he ordered paid to Aurnou.

Sassower has repeatedly argued that she would not sign what she called "illegal" documents and settled the case only because she was told she would lose.