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July 27, 1988

Harriet L. Goldberg, Esq.  
Assistant United States Attorney,  
Chief, Civil Rights Unit  
One St. Andrew's Plaza,  
New York, New York, 10007

Dear Ms. Goldberg,

The within article appeared in today's edition of the New York Daily News (p. 4).

Even with subpoena power, Judge Hopkins will only obtain a small portion of the available evidence, even assuming His Honor desires to obtain all the evidence, for as the article correctly notes, there is "fear of retribution".

Lawyers fear retribution, although the Canons mandates exposure, because, inter alia, of two words -- "GEORGE SASSOWER".

Everyone knows what happened to me for asserting my First Amendment Rights, my professional mandate, my societal obligation, concerning the larceny of judicial trust assets.

The question is where was and is the United States Attorney, all the other prosecutorial agencies, and the governmental civil rights agencies?

Where will you be on August 2, 1988?

Very truly yours,

  
GEORGE SASSOWER



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the ... lesson in that it shows you how ...

# Leading judges to judge Fusco

By KEVIN McCOY

Daily News Staff Writer

The state's top judges have launched a formal inquiry into allegations that a powerful Bronx judge used his post to steer business to an insurance firm headed by a friend and a relative.

The highly unusual investigation of Justice Louis Fusco Jr. could result in his being removed as administrator of the Bronx Supreme Court's civil division.

State Chief Administrative Judge Albert Rosenblatt confirmed that James D. Hopkins, a retired state Appellate Division judge, has been given subpoena power to conduct the inquiry.

## Result of News stories

The probe was sparked by Daily News stories that quoted lawyers saying Fusco recommended that they use the insurance agency. The News has also confirmed that the firm, American Structures Ltd., was involved the settlements of at least six medical malpractice cases over which Fusco presided.

The firm could have earned more than \$100,000 in commissions from the cases.

Carole Tindall, a long-time friend of Fusco, is president of American Structures. State insurance records show that Michael Borrelli, a Yonkers insurance broker identified by the state attorney general's office as Fusco's nephew, is vice president.

In a July 25 letter, Rosenblatt told Hopkins to explore allegations "that while functioning in his judicial capacity, Justice Fusco allegedly improperly advanced private business interests of others in connection with case settlements."

Hopkins was asked to submit findings by Aug. 15. He declined comment yesterday.

Rosenblatt said Hopkins is authorized "to take any steps he feels are appropriate to determine if there was any impropriety" involving Fusco and American Structures.

American Structures specializes in purchasing life insurance annuities that are typically used to guarantee settlements paid over a period of years to victims of medical malpractice.

## Repeated recommendations

Two attorneys have told The News that Fusco, who holds sway over all Bronx Supreme Court civil actions, repeatedly recommended the company to lawyers handling malpractice cases.

The attorneys and a third source, who all asked not to be identified for fear of retribution, charged that Tindall at times participated in settlement conferences held in the judge's chamber.

Calling the recommendations "improper," one attorney said, "I don't think that in his position as a judge he should be recommending one company versus another."

Fusco could not be reached.