

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----x  
GEORGE SASSOWER,

Plaintiff,

Index No.  
10726-1978

-against-

ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, ANTHONY MASTROIANNI,  
VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., JOHN P. FINNERTY,  
ALLAN CROCE, ANTHONY GRZYMALSKI, CHARLES  
BROWN, HARRY E. SEIDELL, NEW YORK NEWS INC.,  
and VIRGINIA D. MATHIAS,

Defendants.

-----x  
Plaintiff, complaining of the defendants respectful  
set forth and allege:

1. That at all of the times hereinafter mentioned the  
defendant, NEW YORK NEWS INC. was a domestic corporation  
duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws  
of the State of New York.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION  
AGAINST ALL THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN  
EXCEPT THE DEFENDANT, NEW YORK NEWS  
INC.

2. That at all of the times hereinafter mentioned the  
defendants in this cause of action, conspired to act jointly  
and in concert, and in fact did so in the actions hereinafter  
described.

3. On March 8, 1978, the defendant HARRY E. SEIDELL,  
with knowledge that he did not have jurisdiction over the  
plaintiff in incarcerating him, and despite such manifest  
lack of jurisdiction, with the aid and cooperation of the

other defendants herein caused plaintiff to be sentenced for criminal contempt of court.

4. With knowledge that the Order of Criminal Contempt and Warrant of Commitment issued on March 8, 1978, was void, sham, and spurious, the defendants published same in order to defame, embarrass, and harass the plaintiff.

5. With knowledge that the Sheriff and his Deputies of Suffolk County did not have jurisdiction outside of Suffolk County, except under circumstances and conditions not here relevant, the defendants authorized, sent, and went outside of Suffolk County in order to defame, harass, imprison and assault the plaintiff.

6. Although the plaintiff was willing to make himself available to the Sheriff and his Deputies at such places outside the County of Suffolk so that they could execute the aforementioned void, sham and spurious Warrant of Commitment, at such time as met with the convenience of the Sheriff and his Deputies, they refused to execute such Warrant by reason of the fact that the legal remedy of Habeas Corpus was readily available to plaintiff at such places.

7. That on the 10th day of June, 1978, the defendant, ANTHONY GRZYMALSKI, and another Deputy Sheriff of Suffolk County, with the permission, consent, and direction of the other defendants herein went outside of Suffolk County, assaulted, imprisoned, and abducted the plaintiff herein.

8. That such assaults upon plaintiff caused him serious physical injuries and he was threatened with still

further serious injuries unless he submitted to such abduction without further attempt to gain the aid of police authorities having jurisdiction at the time and places.

9. Having abducted the plaintiff to Suffolk County Jail, the defendants incarcerated the plaintiff contrary to the laws of the State of New York.

10. Thereafter, when plaintiff was ordered released under a Writ of Habeas Corpus, the defendants refused to release plaintiff, but instead kept him incarcerated and imprisoned.

11. In addition the defendants otherwise violated the plaintiff's rights and their obligations, and caused him great personal injuries all to his damage.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF  
ACTION AGAINST ALL THE DEFENDANTS

12. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of the complaint marked "1" and "2" as if more specifically set forth at length herein, and further alleges.

13. That on or about June 27, 1977, and thereafter, the NEW YORK NEWS INC., publishing a newspaper of general circulation primarily in the City of New York and the surrow area, published defamatory material concerning the plaintiff who was not a public figure, not involved with public matters, and on subject matters on which he did not voluntarily desire to become engaged in in a public manner.

14. That such publications accused plaintiff of criminal activity, exposed him to hatred, contempt, aversion, and

induced evil and unsavory opinion of him privately and in his profession in which he was then engaged, to wit, an attorney, copies of which are not presently available to plaintiff.

15. That such allegations were knowingly false and misleading, and/or maliciously published in a grossly irresponsible manner without the due consideration for standards of information gathering and dissemination followed by responsible parties.

16. The defendant NEW YORK NEWS INC. falsely published that plaintiff, inter alia, did not file an accounting in an estate that he was administering, that he was spending estate monies and attempted to sell estate property without authorization, that his criminal activities were being investigated by the District Attorney.

17. That such false material was given to the NEW YORK NEWS INC. by the other defendants herein in their joint effort to defame plaintiff, cause him harm and injuries.

18. That as a result thereof plaintiff sustained special damages in his profession and other injuries.

19. Furthermore, by reason of the premises plaintiff desires and demands punitive damages against these defendants

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF  
ACTION AGAINST THE DEFENDANT  
VIRGINIA D. MATHIAS

20. On or about the 30th day of January, 1978, plaintiff mailed to this defendant the sum of \$50 for certain stenographic minutes to which plaintiff was entitled.

21. That the plaintiff never received such minutes as

ordered, nor did he agree to the terms and conditions that this defendant imposed for same.

22. That plaintiff has demanded the return of such funds and same has been refused.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment in the first cause of action in the sum of \$5,000,000 actual and punitive damages; \$5,000,000 actual and punitive damages in the second cause of action; and \$50 in the third cause of action, together with the costs and disbursements of this proceeding.

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