

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NASSAU

GEORGE SASSOWER, individually and on  
behalf of others similarly situated,

*Plaintiff*

*against*

ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, and  
NEW YORK LAW PUBLISHING COMPANY,

*Defendant*

*Index No.* 20987-1982

*Plaintiff designates*

Nassau-Subject to application  
to change venue,  
*County as the place of trial*

*The basis of the venue is*  
CPLR §506

**Summons with Notice**

*Plaintiff resides at*  
283 Soundview Avenue,  
White Plains, New York, 10606  
*County of Westchester.*

To the above named Defendant S.

**You are hereby summoned** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy  
of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's  
Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days  
after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in  
case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded herein.

Dated, August 18, 1982  
Defendant's address:

GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq.  
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff  
Office and Post Office Address  
283 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, New York, 10606  
914-328-0440

Notice: The object of this action is

The relief sought is

Upon your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the sum of \$  
with interest from 19 and the costs of this action.



SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NASSAU

-----x  
GEORGE SASSOWER, individually and on  
behalf of others similarly situated,

Index No.

Plaintiff,

-against-

ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, SURROGATE'S  
COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, and NEW YORK LAW  
PUBLISHING COMPANY,

Defendants.  
-----x

Plaintiff, GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq. individually  
and on behalf of others similarly situated, complaining  
of the defendants, respectfully sets forth and alleges:

1. At all of the times hereinafter mentioned, the  
plaintiff, GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq., was and still is an  
attorney duly admitted to practice law in the courts of  
the State of New York, and actively practices such  
profession.

2. At all of the times hereinafter mentioned,  
DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., was and still is the wife of  
plaintiff, GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq., an attorney duly  
admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of  
New York, and actively practices such profession.



3. At all of the times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, was and still is the Surrogate of Suffolk County.

4. At all of the times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, NEW YORK LAW PUBLISHING COMPANY, was and still is the publisher of the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL, and has been organized and exists under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

5. At all of the times hereinafter mentioned, the defendants acted and operated under color of law.

6. On the 3rd day of February, 1978, there was pending in the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, plaintiff's motion, brought on by Order to Show Cause, requesting that ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI be restrained

"from harassing plaintiff and those with whom he has business, professional and social engagements"

7. On the 3rd day of February, 1978 in order to induce the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT not to issue interim relief on the aforesaid motion, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, authorized his attorney to represent to the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT that the proceedings involving plaintiff had been completed (except for possible contempt proceedings against him).



8. Based upon such authorized representation by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI's attorney, plaintiff did not, then and there, press the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for any interim relief pending the adjourned date of such motion. Nor, on information and belief, did the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT consider interim relief based upon such similar representation of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and his attorney.

9. On February 8, 1978, the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT issued another Order to Show Cause wherein plaintiff requested an Order:

"restraining Ernest L. Signorelli from hearing or adjudicating any matter wherein [GEORGE SASSOWER] is a party or an attorney."

10. In February 1978, and for a period of at least eight (8) months prior thereto, DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., was neither a party nor an attorney with respect to any matter pending in SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, a court existing under and by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.

11. On or about the 24th day of February, 1978, there was not pending before ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI or SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, any matter concerning, DORIS L. SASSOWER. Esq.



12. On or about the 24th day of February, 1978, there was not sub judice before ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI or SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY any matter concerning plaintiff.

13. On or about the 24th day of February, 1978, plaintiff, GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq., and DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., individually, and as attorneys, were constitutionally entitled to a neutral and detached court and judge with respect to any and all legal issues which might present themselves for decision and determination.

14. On information and belief, ANTHONY MASTROIANNI, Public Administrator of Suffolk County and VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., Esq., Attorney for the Public Administrator of Suffolk County were and still are political associates and appointees of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI.

15. On information and belief, all actions mentioned herein by VINCENT G. BERGER, JR. was with the knowledge, consent, approval, and connivance of ANTHONY MASTROIANNI and ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI.



16. On information and belief, and on February 24, 1978, complaints made by VINCENT G. BERGER, JR. to the District Attorneys of Westchester and Suffolk Counties against plaintiff on or about June 29, 1977, had been rejected by such District Attorneys or were not being entertained or acted upon on. Such inactivity on the part of the District Attorneys were made on the mere face of VINCENT G. BERGER's complaints without any response from plaintiff whatsoever. The complaints made by VINCENT G. BERGER, JR. were described to him by the District Attorney of Westchester County as a "fishing expedition".

17. On information and belief, on or about the 24th day of February, 1978, the complaint(s) made by VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., on or about June 29, 1977, regarding plaintiff, to the disciplinary body of the Westchester Bar Association, thereafter known as the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL, was not resulting in any official action.



18. On information and belief, prior to the 24th day of February, 1978, plaintiff's written explanations to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT were sent to VINCENT G. BERGER, JR. and the contents thereof disclosed to ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and ANTHONY MASTROIANNI.

19. On information and belief, on or about the 24th day of February, 1978, VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., ANTHONY MASTROIANNI, and defendant ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI did not and could not controvert the assertions made by plaintiff to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT as forwarded to VINCENT G. BERGER, JR.

20. On information and belief, on or about the 24th day of February, 1978, and as a result of the inability and failure of VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., ANTHONY MASTROIANNI and defendant, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI to respond to the explanation tendered by GEORGE SASSOWER to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, such complaint laid fallow.



21. On information and belief, the complaints by VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., against plaintiff were made as a result of plaintiff's legal action with respect to the conduct of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI on June 22-23, 1977, which included plaintiff's unlawful conviction and sentence without (a) any accusatory instrument, (b) absence of notification to plaintiff that a criminal contempt proceeding was to take place on June 22, 1977, (c) trial, (d) conviction, and (e) sentence, all in absentia, (f) the refusal to permit plaintiff to exercise his right to Habeas Corpus relief, (g) the refusal to permit plaintiff to assert his Fifth Amendment rights, and (h) as a "cover up" for other egregious misdeeds of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI.

22. On the 24th day of February, 1978, an appeal by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, involving plaintiff was pending in the APPELLATE DIVISION, SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

23. On the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew or had reason to believe that plaintiff would thereafter probably be the subject of a trial and determination by Hon. HARRY E. SEIDELL.



24. On the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew or had reason to believe as a matter of policy or practice that everything issued from SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY labeled a "Decision" or "Opinion" would be published in NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL, in haec verba, and that everything issued prior to that time by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, labeled a "Decision" or "Opinion" had been published in haec verba by the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL.

25. On February 24, 1978, there was nothing pending for decision before ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI or SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY in any matter involving plaintiff or his wife, DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq.

26. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known about the decision and opinion in Matter of Haas, (33 A.D.2d 1, 304 N.Y.S.2d 930 [4th Dept.], app. dis. 26 N.Y.2d 646, 307 N.Y.S.2d 671), and they had no reasonable grounds to believe that such determination did not represent good and existing law.



27. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known about the provisions of Judiciary Law §90[10], concerning the privacy and confidentiality of disciplinary complaints against attorneys, and they had no reasonable grounds to believe that such provision did not represent good and existing law.

28. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known about the decision of Shiles v. News Syndicate (27 N.Y.2d 9, 313 N.Y.S.2d 104, cert. den. 400 U.S. 999, 91 S.Ct. 454, 27 L.Ed.2d 450), and they had no reasonable grounds to believe that such decision and opinion did not represent good and existing law, as applied to plaintiff and his wife.



29. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known about the decision and opinion of Mr. Justice Holmes in Cowley v. Pulsifer (137 Mass 392, 50 Am Rep 316) or the principles enunciated therein as applicable to plaintiff and his wife, and they had no reasonable grounds to believe that such decision and opinion did not represent good and existing law.

30. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known about the decision and opinion in Wiener v. Weintraub (22 N.Y.2d 330, 292 N.Y.S.2d 667), and they had no reasonable grounds to believe that such opinion did not represent good and existing law.

31. On information and belief, on the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew that he did not have jurisdiction over DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., individually or as an attorney.

32. On the 24th day of February, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI issued a statement which he labeled a "Decision and Order".



33. Prior to the issuance of such statement of February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY did not give any notice or forewarning whatsoever to plaintiff or DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq.

34. On February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known that plaintiff and/or DORIS L. SASSOWER could not be publicly defamed, disparaged or ostracized in their profession, under color of law, without due process of law.

35. This publicized statement constituted a deprivation of significant personal and property rights without procedural or substantive due process in violation of the Constitution of the United States and Constitution of the State of New York, which on information and belief ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew or should have known on February 24, 1978.

36. On February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL knew or should have known that public professional complaints for disciplinary action by the Appellate Division against plaintiff, DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., or any attorney, was prohibited by law.



37. On information and belief, on February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew that any attempt to improperly prejudice a judicial tribunal for or against a litigant was a contempt of court, and otherwise contrary to law and professional ethics.

38. On February 24, 1978, at the time a statement was issued by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, regarding plaintiff and DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI had no intention of deciding any issues before him or SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, involving plaintiff or DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq.

39. In fact the statement of February 24, 1978 did not decide any issues pending before ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI or SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY.

40. Prior to issuing the statement of February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI had, on information and belief, conferred with HARRY E. SEIDELL and they had decided that ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI would recuse himself that said HARRY E. SEIDELL would act as "Acting Surrogate" with respect to plaintiff and the Estate of EUGENE PAUL KELLY.



41. On information and belief, on February 24, 1978, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew that there would probably be pending before HARRY E. SEIDELL a criminal contempt proceeding against plaintiff.

42. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI caused to be personally sent or delivered to HARRY E. SEIDELL the aforesaid statement of February 24, 1978, with the intent of depriving plaintiff of a fair and constitutional hearing, or knowing that was the probable consequence thereof.

43. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI caused to be sent to Hon. MILTON MOLLEN, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division his statement of February 24, 1978, in order to improperly prejudice the pending appeal by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI against plaintiff in that Court.



44. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI caused to be sent to HON. MILTON MOLLEN the aforesaid statement of February 24, 1982, rather than to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT directly, where the matter was pending, having reason to believe that such statement would thereafter be forwarded to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT by HON. MILTON MOLLEN and thereby create the impression with the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT that such statement of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI had the imprimatur of HON. MILTON MOLLEN.

45. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew on February 24, 1978, that the proper method to add or supplement to the complaint of his appointee and sycophant, VINCENT G. BERGER, JR. was to mail or deliver such material directly and confidentially to the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.



46. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew or had reason to know that the extensive publication of such statement of February 24, 1978, in the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL would cause psychological and improper pressure to be brought upon the GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT to prosecute plaintiff in order to acquit itself in the duties and functions of its office.

47. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI disparagingly included plaintiff's wife, DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., in such statement and publicly complained about her professional conduct to Hon. MILTON MOLLEN, with false and misleading facts, because she was the wife of plaintiff, in order to retaliate against plaintiff and for no other significant reason.

48. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI knew on February 24, 1978, that his statement of that date was substantially, if not wholly, untrue, false and misleading.



49. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI after February 24, 1978, knew his statement of that date was untrue, false and misleading, but made no attempt to correct the false assertions contained therein, although he had reason to know that such statement was being republished.

50. ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI has refused and declined all invitations that he swear to the truthfulness of the assertions contained in his statement of February 24, 1978.

51. Plaintiff has hereto filed with the APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, an affidavit, whose Table of Contents reads, partially, as follows:

• The Lies Published by Surrogate Signorelli

Signorelli Published Lie # 1	42
Signorelli Published Lie # 2	43
Signorelli Published Lie # 3	53
Signorelli Published Lie # 4	54
Signorelli Published Lie # 5	55
Signorelli Published Lie # 6	65
Signorelli Published Lie # 7	70
Signorelli Published Lie # 8	73
Signorelli Published Lie # 9	102
Signorelli Published Lie # 10	103
Signorelli Published Lie # 11	114
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Signorelli Published Lie #22	162
Signorelli Published Lie #23	167
Signorelli Published Lie #24	173
Signorelli Published Lie #25	206
Signorelli Published Lie #26	208
Signorelli Published Lie #27	210
Signorelli Published Lie #28	212
Signorelli Published Lie #29	213
Signorelli Published Lie #30	213"

52. The documentation for the aforesaid assertions by plaintiff have come mostly from the sworn testimony of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, documents in SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, and other documents and facts which have never been in dispute.

53. Although copies of the aforesaid affidavit of plaintiff was served on the attorneys for the various interested parties, nothing contained therein has been disputed by any of the aforesaid attorneys, their clients, including ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, or anyone else.

54. On information and belief, ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI intentionally adopted the format of his February 24, 1978 statement so that neither plaintiff nor DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq. could appeal therefrom in accordance with the practice and rules of the State of New York.



55. In order to conceal the misdeeds of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, he and SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY have pruned, concealed, and destroyed various documents and records concerning the plaintiff and DORIS L. SASSOWER, Esq., and the Estate of EUGENE PAUL KELLY.

56. That such statement of February 24, 1978, is included as an official document in a public accessible file and as such may be republished with probable impunity, causing plaintiff and his wife continual and irreparable damage and injury.

57. By reason of such destruction and concealment, plaintiff and his wife are further subject to continual and irreparable injury by virtue of Civil Rights Law §74, which permits pruned records to be republished with impunity, and prevents a true and fair disclosure of the facts and events.

58. On information and belief, despite the aforesaid, the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL has continued its policy of printing any and all decisions from SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, although not compelled to do so by any law or lawful contract or direction.



59. On information and belief, despite the aforesaid, the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL has maintained its policy of printing every disciplinary complaint from any judge that comes to its knowledge, the provisions of Judiciary Law §90[10] notwithstanding.

60. Plaintiff has never been served with a copy of the February 24, 1978 statement with Notice of Entry.

61. By reason of the adverse publicity generated by ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI against plaintiff, and ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI's association with the judicial district which includes Suffolk County, the mandate of CPLR §506, does not constitute a constitutional venue under federal and state law.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully prays that an Order and Judgment be entered (a) adjudging and declaring the statement of February 24, 1978 in the Estate of EUGENE PAUL KELLY null and void; (b) mandating that ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI and SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY cause to be imprinted on every page of the filed February 24, 1974 statement a notice to the effect that such statement is the personal, unauthorized and unofficial statement of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI; (c) that SURROGATE'S COURT, SUFFOLK COUNTY be restrained from certifying any copies of such February 24, 1978



statement of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, except with such notation; (d) appointing a receiver, at the cost and expense of ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, charged with the duty of reconstructing all documents, minutes, and transcripts that should be in the file entitled "Matter of Eugene Paul Kelly, deceased", and thereafter certifying said file as complete, or if it cannot be completed, qualifying such certification; (e) restraining NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL from publishing any material violative of Judiciary Law §90[10] except when such information comes from sources other than judicial employees entrusted with the obligation not to disclose or complainants or their agents; (f) together with any other, further, and/or different relief as to this Court may seem just and proper in the premises.

GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq.  
Attorney for plaintiff  
283 Soundview Avenue,  
White Plains, N.Y. 10606  
914-328-0440

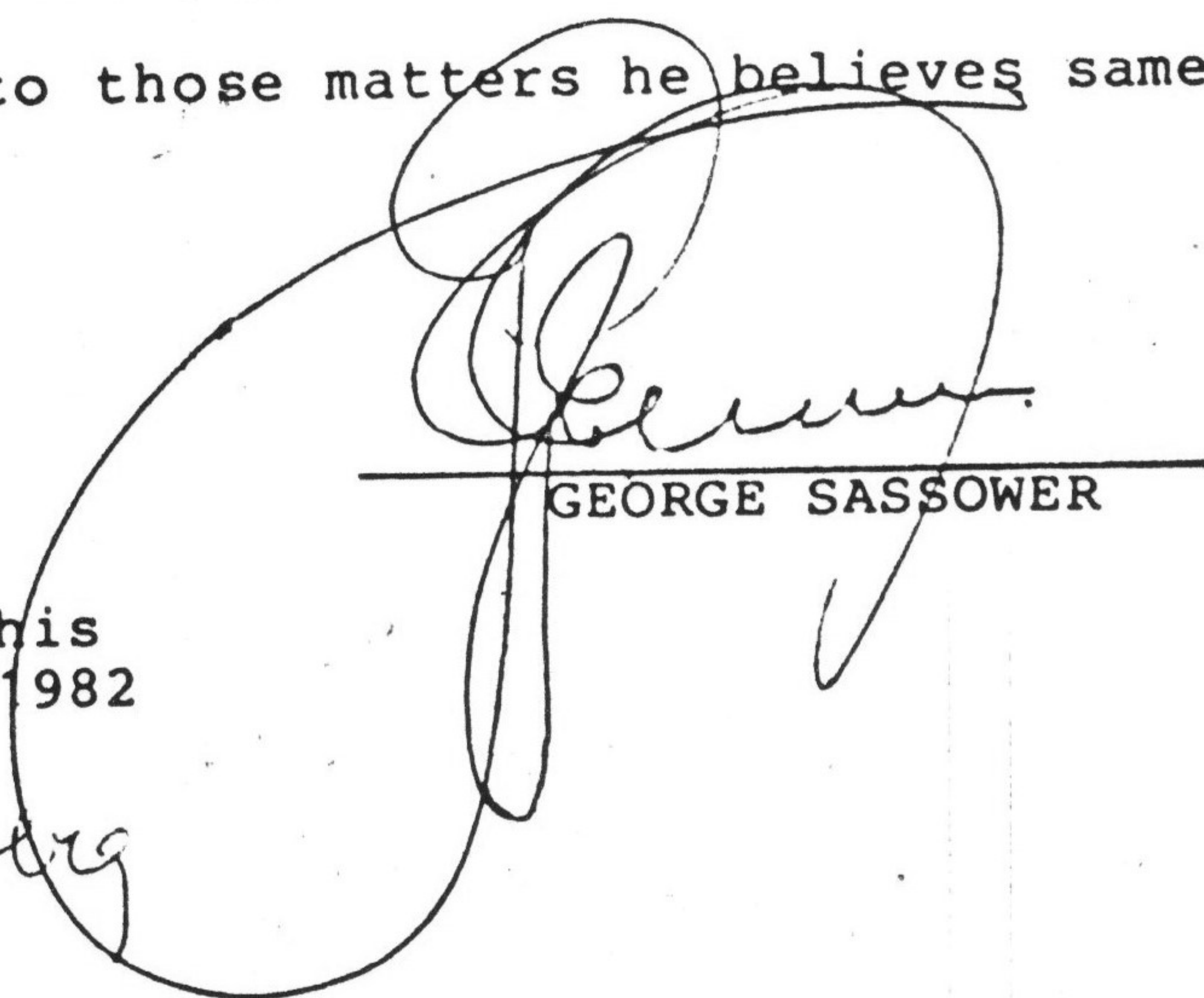


STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER )

GEORGE SASSOWER, Esq., first being duly sworn,  
deposes, and says:

I am the plaintiff in the within action and  
have read the foregoing complaint.

The same is true to my own knowledge except as  
to matters contained therein stated to be on information  
and belief and as to those matters he believes same to  
be true.



GEORGE SASSOWER

Sworn to before me this  
18th day of August, 1982

Muriel Goldberg

MURIEL GOLDBERG  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 60-4515474 Westchester County  
Commission Expires March 30, 1983.



Index No.

Year 19

SUPREME COURT : NASSAU COUNTY

GEORGE SASSOWER, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated

Plaintiff,

-against-

ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, and NEW YORK LAW PUBLISHING COMPANY,

Defendants.

Summons and Verified Complaint

GEORGE SASSOWER  
Plaintiff.

Attorney for

Office and Post Office Address, Telephone  
283 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE  
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y. 10606  
(914) 328-0440

To

Attorney(s) for

Service of a copy of the within  
Dated,

is hereby admitted.

Attorney(s) for

Sir.—Please take notice

NOTICE OF ENTRY

that the within is a (certified) true copy of a  
duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on

19

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

that an order  
settlement to the HON.  
of the within named court, at  
on

of which the within is a true copy will be presented for  
one of the judges

19 at M.

Dated,

Yours, etc.  
GEORGE SASSOWER