

Sassower ordered to pay \$9,042

By Deborah Pines
Staff Writer

A judge this week accused suspended White Plains lawyer Doris Sassower of acting as if she was "above the law" and ordered her to pay \$9,042 to a former client whose file she kept three months after a court ordered that she return it.



Doris Sassower

In a 23-page decision, state Supreme Court Justice Samuel Fredman said Sassower had "created a mountain of legal, factual and even political abracadabra" and tested the

court's patience "beyond the wildest imagination."

Fredman's ruling came several days after Sassower, 57, a matrimonial lawyer, was suspended from the practice of law for refusing to submit to a medical examination to determine whether she was incapacitated.

That order came from the state Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

"It's hard to win when the other side's playing with a stacked deck," Sassower said yesterday of Fredman's ruling.

His order required \$9,042.25 be paid to former client Evelyn Breslaw for legal costs incurred recovering her matrimonial case file from Sassower after a judge ordered it returned in April 1989. The file was transferred to Breslaw's new lawyer, Harvey Landau of White Plains, on July 28, 1989.

Fredman noted that he arrived at the dollar amount based on Landau's testimony at a hearing before him May 21, 1990. The judge wrote that he delayed his ruling until a lawsuit by Sassower to overturn his 1989 election had "played itself out."

Sassower had called the cross-endorsement of Fredman and other judges by Westchester Democrats and Republicans an "illegal contract." Although she lost two lower court rulings on the issue, she said she hopes to appeal to the state's highest court.