

## **Judge lets ex-officials press ahead with lawsuit**

A federal judge's ruling has cleared the way for a trial to proceed in a civil lawsuit by two former Town of Cicero officials who contend they were improperly stripped of power for exercising their 1st Amendment rights.

The suit by former Town Collector Alison Resnick and her husband, Ray Hanania, a former town spokesman, alleged then-Town President Betty Loren-Maltese and her allies retaliated after the couple tried to blow the whistle on corruption.

In a 42-page ruling signed Tuesday, U.S. District Senior Judge James B. Moran threw out elements of the lawsuit, but the heart of the case survived for trial, said Jon Loevy, the couple's lawyer.

Loren-Maltese, who is serving an almost 8-year prison sentence for her 2002 conviction for looting the town of more than \$12 million, previously called the lawsuit frivolous.