

## Judge cites Gosman's past business habits

► GOSMAN from 1F

their money.

But Luzinski and his court-appointed attorney, David Cimo, said it's difficult to predict exactly when that might be.

"If you give good counsel a little bit of time and ammunition, they're going to come up with a lot of ideas to help their case," Cimo said.

Lessen flatly rejected nearly every defense the Gosmans used during a weeklong trial in Miami last year.

In July 1999, Abe Gosman hurriedly used a quitclaim deed to transfer ownership of the home to Lin Gosman, despite a prior agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank not to encumber or transfer assets, including the Palm Beach mansion, Lessen ruled.

Two months later, Abe Gosman took out a \$17 million mortgage from City National Bank to pay business expenses.

The Gosmans testified during trial that the bank insisted Lin Gosman sign the mortgage but that she refused unless Abe Gosman gave her a share of the house.

The Gosmans said that

both spouses.

"The mortgage was totally inconsistent with his past practices," Lessen wrote. "After more than 12 years of owning North County Road free and clear of encumbrances, it was totally out of character for Mr. Gosman to place a mortgage on the property, particularly for the primary purpose of paying a business debt."

The 49-page ruling also blasted Lin Gosman, who testified that she was not involved in her husband's business affairs and did not know about his deteriorating financial condition.

Lessen noted that Lin Gosman was a millionaire before she married Abe Gosman in 1996, that she was vigilant about her financial security and "persistently pestered" her husband about financing a prearranged marital trust.

"While she does not have a college degree, the court found Mrs. Gosman to have plenty of street smarts," Lessen wrote.

In 2003, the judge ruled that the Gosmans were not married for purposes of bankruptcy exemptions because Florida law does not recognize a Dominican Republic divorce that Lin Gos-

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