

# New York Law Journal

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**An insurer already assessed \$150,000 in punitive damages for its "deceptive" and "abusive" practices in handling fire loss claims on a Westchester home has been ordered to pay \$174,652 in legal fees by a Southern District judge. Chief Judge Charles L. Brieant took into account "public interest" factors in the award last week to Wilkofsky, Friedman, Karel & Cummings. The fees represented half of jury's total award of \$349,304 in *Riordan V. Nationwide Mutual Insurance*, 90 Civ. 0467. The judge said he saw no purpose "in engaging in mouse-milking" to determine an exact amount.**