

He began his legal career after the end of his service in World War II. He soon formed a partnership with Stan Franklin and they later established the law firm of Mandel, Gilbert, Rocklin and Franklin. Mandel remained a member of this firm until he was elected Governor.

His political career began in 1950 when he served as a Justice of the Peace in Baltimore City. He was also a member of the Governor's Commission on the Municipal Court for Baltimore City.

In 1951, his friend, City Councilman Samuel Friedel (Congressman since 1954 to the present) asked him to run for the Democratic State Central Committee. He agreed to run as a favor to Councilman Friedel. His election win began an unbroken string of victories extending to the present.

In January of 1952, he was selected by the Democratic State Central Committee to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates from Baltimore City's Fifth District. In 1954, with the support of Baltimore City's Mayor, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., he was elected Chairman of the City's legislative delegation.

He was elected to the House of Delegates in the general election of 1954, and was re-elected in 1958, 1962 and 1966. He soon became Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. In 1958, his committee investigated the office of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner. In 1963, he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates and was re-elected every year until he became Governor.

Governor Mandel's leadership in the General Assembly was often described as "quiet and cautious." He received national recognition for his legislative leadership and was a member of the 10-man Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders.

As Speaker of the House, he commissioned the Eagleton Institute of Political Science, of Rutgers University, to study ways of modernizing the General Assembly. Afterwards he implemented the bulk of the Institute's recommendations, making Maryland one of the states leading in the reform and modernization of state legislatures.

In July of 1968, he helped organize a National Committee of State Legislators behind the presidential candidacy of Hubert Humphrey. Earlier that year, he was elected Chairman of the Democratic Party's State Central Committee.

The Governor was married June 8, 1941, to the former Barbara Oberfeld of Baltimore, and they have two children. Gary, 26, is married and was graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1970, and then joined the Baltimore law firm with which his father had been associated before he became Governor. Their daughter, Barbara, 23, is a 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland. She was married in April 1971, to Jack Victor Kahn of New York. The Kahns now live in Baltimore.

Until 1969, the Mandel family lived in Strathmore Park in the Northwest section of Baltimore City.

His parents, the former Rebecca Cohen and Harry Mandel, were both natives of Baltimore City, where his widowed mother still resides.

Governor Mandel's principal hobbies are sports and pipe collecting. As a youth, he played baseball and was once offered a chance to pitch in the old Eastern Shore League, but he decided to go to college instead. He has played nearly every sport and still occasionally works out at the U. S. Naval Academy Gymnasium.