

Top lobbyist Doyle aiding Mandel in furniture probe

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—James J. Doyle, Jr., a Baltimore lawyer generally regarded as the premier lobbyist in Annapolis, is representing former Governor Marvin Mandel in his dispute with the attorney general's office over furniture missing from the governor's mansion.

Mr. Doyle met with Stephen H. Sachs, the attorney general, last week and has had other discussions with the attorney general's staff, which is providing Mr. Doyle with details from the furniture investigation, Mr. Sachs said.

"I'm just trying to help out," said Mr. Doyle, refusing to comment on what fee—if any—he would charge Mr. Mandel for his legal services.

Mr. Sachs and Governor Hughes have said that Mr. Mandel took 87 items of furniture and other household goods, worth almost \$40,000, when he left the governor's mansion in 1977. Mr. Sachs says the furniture belongs to the state. Mr. Mandel says that all, or almost all, belongs to him and wife, Jeanne.

Mr. Hughes has told the former governor that if he does not return the furnishings by December 20, the state will file a civil suit.

Mr. Mandel could not be reached for comment.



JAMES J. DOYLE, JR.

... Mandel lawyer in furniture dispute

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