

Bar group asks court to discipline Mandel

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Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—Lawyers for the group that investigates Maryland attorneys yesterday asked the state Court of Appeals to discipline former Governor Marvin Mandel.

Mr. Mandel recently finished serving 19 months in federal prison for mail fraud and racketeering. The appeals court suspended him from practicing law after his conviction more than four years ago; that suspension is still in effect.

He was found guilty of using his power as governor to benefit friends who gave him hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gifts. Last month, President Reagan commuted Mr. Mandel's three-year prison term.

In their petition to the appeals court yesterday, lawyers for the state Attorney Grievance Commission asked the court to "take such disciplinary action against [Mr. Mandel] as it may deem appropriate," including charging him for the costs of the legal proceedings.

The commission lawyers did not

tell the court what type of action they wanted the court to take against Mr. Mandel. The appeals court, however, could disbar him.

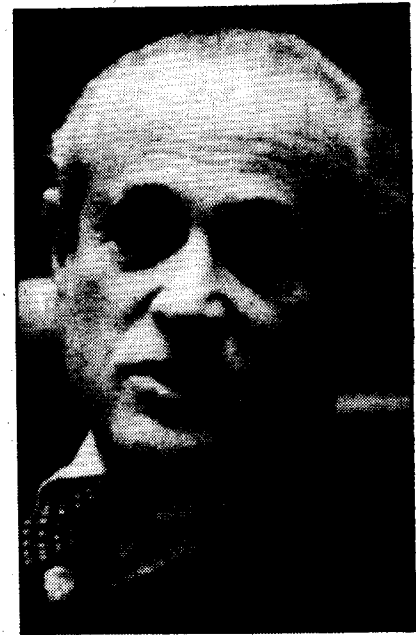
Asked yesterday whether he will fight the commission's move against him, Mr. Mandel said, "Of course I intend to."

It is now up to the appeals court to appoint a lower-court judge to hear arguments and review evidence on Mr. Mandel's conduct. That judge will then issue a formal finding that will be sent to the appeals court.

Eventually the high court will decide whether to let Mr. Mandel resume practicing law in Maryland or throw him out of the profession.

Several of the seven Court of Appeals judges are expected to disqualify themselves from the case, because a number of them received appointments from Mr. Mandel—either to the court or to other positions. Those who disqualify themselves will be replaced by other judges from lower courts or by retired Court of Appeals judges.

A lawyer can be disbarred if he has been convicted of a crime of



MARVIN MANDEL
... will fight disciplinary move

"moral turpitude."

Last February, the Court of Appeals disbarred an attorney for mail fraud and racketeering, the crimes for which Mr. Mandel was convicted.

Though the judges in that decision set out mail fraud as a crime of moral turpitude, Arnold M. Weiner, Mr. Mandel's lawyer, said the appeals court did not actually declare that all mail fraud justified disbarment.

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