

Lawyers act to disbar Agnew

Special to the Examiner

BALTIMORE — Disbarment proceedings against former Vice President Agnew will begin in Maryland in the next few days, according to a source close to Maryland State Bar Association.

The source said the action will begin in Montgomery County, a suburb of Washington, D.C., where Agnew maintains a home.

There appears to be some dispute about where the action should be filed.

The evidence presented by the Justice Department against Agnew — presumably the grounds on which bar association action would be taken—listed overt acts alleged to have been committed in Baltimore County, a suburb of Baltimore where he was county executive and where he is currently registered to vote and owns a second home.

Lawyers in Baltimore County believe they should handle the case.

"There's a difference between a domicile and a residency," one said.

"Agnew has a domicile in Montgomery County but he

maintains a residency in Baltimore County.

"We think it's our baby but the state bar is being arbitrary about it, and they've got more power than we have," the Baltimore County lawyer said.

Asked if the "proceedings," which he said will be filed in Montgomery County circuit court, call for Agnew's disbarment, the state bar representative replied:

"Yes."

Robert L. Kay, president of the Montgomery County Bar Association, said he was not aware of any plans by the state association to file disbarment proceedings in Montgomery County.

State bar regulations state that all matters relating to disciplinary action or disbarment remain confidential until legal proceedings are filed in court.

Sources in Baltimore noted that Agnew has many friends in the Baltimore County legal fraternity, leading to speculation that the state bar wished to avoid possible conflict of interest problems by diverting the disbarment action to Montgomery County.