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# Spitzer hiring city lawyer on taxpayer expense in Troopergate

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ALBANY - Gov. Spitzer has lined up a Manhattan lawyer - at taxpayer expense - to help him quash subpoenas sent to his office by a GOP-controlled panel investigating the Troopergate scandal.

Spitzer's office confirmed that Dietrich Snell, a former deputy attorney general, will help the administration as it seeks to block the Senate Investigations Committee's push for e-mails and other documents related to an effort by the governor's aides to discredit Senate GOP leader Joe Bruno.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Senate "forced" the governor to hire Snell, from the prestigious firm of Proskauer Rose, by using subpoenas to further its "partisan agenda."

Spitzer has denied he directed the effort to damage Bruno. A probe by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo determined no laws were broken, but also found Spitzer aides misused state police to hurt Bruno politically.

The chairman of the panel conducting the inquiry, Sen. George Winner (R-Elmira) called on Spitzer to cooperate with the subpoenas. "The people are going to be paying for his behavior and stonewalling," he said.

A Spitzer spokeswoman said the arrangement with Snell had not been concluded, so she could not say how much it will cost taxpayers.

The Senate GOP wants to hire former federal prosecutor Joseph diGenova for the probe at a cost of \$500,000 for six months, though that contract has also not been finalized, Winner said.

Meanwhile, the state Public Integrity Commission quizzed former Spitzer communications director Darren Dopp for nine hours this week. Dopp, according to the Cuomo report, had a central role in targeting Bruno. His lawyer, Terence Kindlon, said his client answered all questions put to him without invoking the right not to incriminate himself.

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