

DAILY NEWS

Jr. Gotti hires new attorney

Weeks after firing the attorney who scored him a mistrial, John (Junior) Gotti has tapped lawyer Charles Carnesi to defend him against charges that he ordered a hit on Guardian Angel Curtis Sliwa.

"Charlie is an experienced lawyer and while our styles are different, I'm sure the effort will be the same," said attorney Jeffrey Lichtman, who Gotti fired last month after the two had a disagreement.

Carnesi could not be reached for comment yesterday. Manhattan Federal Judge Shira Scheindlin still must sign off on Gotti's choice.

Carnesi represented Gotti co-defendant Louis (Louis Black) Mariani at a racketeering conspiracy trial that ended in September. Mariani was convicted of securities fraud. Jurors were deadlocked on the racketeering charge involving Gotti but cleared the mob scion of stock fraud.

Prosecutors say Gotti, 41, sicced two hit men on Sliwa after the radio host badmouthed his father - the Dapper Don John Gotti - on the air in 1992. Gotti has been confined to his Oyster Bay Cove, L.I., home on \$7 million bail since the trial ended. His retrial is scheduled to start Feb. 13. Lichtman is representing another client at a trial that starts in January, but said that he would have been prepared to represent Gotti at the retrial.

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