

Confidential Due Diligence Report

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Defense attorney Marc Shiner said defense attorneys sometimes put off overtly conducting discovery -- deposing witnesses, requesting documents and the like -- because doing so creates more work for harried prosecutors who may become angry and not offer a plea deal.

"Sometimes defense lawyers, knowing that, will try and do discovery without taking depositions," said Shiner, a former prosecutor for 13 years.

Instead, they may conduct a below-the-radar probe such as having a private investigator check out leads, he said.

Shiner and others say a plea deal for **Epstein** probably would result in pretrial intervention, in which a defendant may be ordered to undergo a psychological evaluation, counseling or other conditions in return for dropping the charge.

Edmondson, spokesman for State Attorney Krischer, said there is no plea offer and no request for the prosecution to show its cards.

"To my knowledge, it's never happened before on a filed case," he said.

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NOTES: Ran all editions.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (C)

Jeffrey **Epstein** (mug) Money manager in New York has powerful allies.

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