

U.S. court bars nettlesome lawyer

FOUR JUDGES of the executive committee of the U.S. District Court have suspended attorney Peter S. Sarelas, 75, from practicing in the federal court for two years. Sarelas was prohibited in November, 1971, from practicing for two years in the state courts.

The executive committee is authorized to suspend any lawyer who has been suspended by state action. The Illinois Supreme Court acted against Sarelas for having filed so many suits "not only against the judiciary, but also against fellow lawyers and laymen who have in some manner" disagreed with him.

Sarelas denied the assertion and said he has never been given an opportunity to defend himself. He was an early tutor of Sherman Skolnick, legal researcher who has filed frequent controversial suits.

Skolnick said the charges against Sarelas arose because Sarelas encouraged his work. "No clients complained against Sarelas," he said. "His clients praised him. The case against Sarelas is a case against me. He has been punished because of me. Since I am a layman, they could not disbar me."

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