

Agnew's Maryland Fight To Avoid Disbarment

Annapolis, Md.

Former Vice President Spiro Agnew's lawyers argued yesterday that his no-contest plea to an income tax evasion charge is not grounds for disciplinary action, such as disbarment.

The Maryland Bar Association, in a petition filed November 12, said Agnew's no-contest plea was evidence of "professional misconduct, crime involving moral turpitude or conduct prejudicial to the Administration," grounds for disbarment, suspension or other disciplinary action.

In their four-paragraph brief, Agnew's attorneys admitted the facts of the nolo contendere plea but contended that it is not grounds for changing his status as a member of the bar.

Agnew, who resigned from

office October 10, the same day he entered the plea, was fined \$10,000 and put on three years unsupervised probation.

Under Maryland procedural rules, the Court of Appeals—the State's highest court—has the final say on disciplinary action against attorneys admitted to practice law in Maryland.

The court has appointed a three-judge panel to hear evidence and make a recommendation.

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