

Notes on People

Virginia Court Disbars Colson

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The Virginia Supreme Court has disbarred Charles W. Colson, former White House special counsel, who has been a lawyer in Virginia since 1958. The court agreed with the state bar association, which asked for disbarment on the ground that Mr. Colson, who is 42 years old, had demonstrated "a reckless disregard" of the "integrity of the legal profession and the judicial system."

Mr. Colson, who was indicted in both the Watergate coverup and White House plumbers' cases, pleaded guilty in June to one count of obstructing justice by attempting to damage Dr. Daniel J. Ellsberg's defense against a conspiracy charge in the disclosure of the Pentagon papers. In September he began serving a one-to-three-year sentence.

In his plea that he not be disbarred, Mr. Colson cited his "heartfelt remorse" and asked for "the opportunity to redeem myself." James R. Wrenn, special counsel for the Virginia State Bar Association, told the court that Mr. Colson's felony went "to the very heart of his responsibility as an attorney."