

N.Y. Bar Asks Independent Investigation

New York

The prestigious bar association to which President Nixon belonged when he was practicing law here called yesterday for an independent prosecutor to investigate the Watergate case because "the integrity of the entire process of justice is at stake."

In a statement sent to the President, the association of the Bar of the City of New York, which represents 10,000 lawyers, said it is "greatly concerned" that the Watergate investigation is under the direction of the Justice Department.

"This arrangement," it said, "has resulted in justifiable doubt concerning possible conflict of interest, as well as problems relating to professional ethics."

"We feel sure," the bar association told the President, "that it must have occurred to you that lawyers and laymen alike would have the greatest confidence if all proceedings were under the independent and direct control of an eminent lawyer, who has no connection with the Department of Justice or any of the persons under investigation."

The letter was approved unanimously by all 19 members of the association's executive committee. The committee is bipartisan.

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