

State Court Rules on Segretti's Ban Hearing

Donald H. Segretti's testimony before the Senate Watergate committee may be used to end his career as a California lawyer, the state Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

Segretti argued unsuccessfully that using this testimony as evidence in State Bar disciplinary hearings would violate his federal constitutional guarantee against self-incrimination.

The seven-member court decided that the federal immunity Segretti accepted protected him simply from criminal prosecution, not the possibility of losing his license to practice law.

The Newport Beach attorney served four months in a federal prison after pleading guilty last October to distributing false literature in President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

The State Bar of California is holding hearings on whether to recommend Segretti's disbarment.