

Bar Unit Asks Haggerty To Quit Pending Probe

The New Orleans Bar Association has urged that Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. refrain from sitting on the bench pending the outcome of an investigation into his conduct by the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana.

In a resolution passed this week by the executive committee, the bar association also called for a "full investigation of the facts" in the Haggerty case to "maintain the integrity of the bench of this state."

Judge Haggerty was acquitted last month by his fellow judge, Matthew S. Braniff, in a trial on charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest.

THE JUDICIARY Commission announced Tuesday it will conduct a probe of Haggerty's conduct.

Judge Haggerty was arrested in December during a vice squad raid on a "stag party" at the Motel DeVille, 3800 Tulane Ave.

The showing of obscene films and "live entertainment" allegedly took place at the party. Judge Haggerty contended the affair was a "bachelor party" for a guest who was to be married soon.

PUBLICITY GIVEN the raid and subsequent trial, said the bar association, "has reflected discredit upon the bench and bar of our city and state."

It urged the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Judicial Council and the Judiciary Commission "to conduct a full investigation of the facts, to take such appropriate action as may be necessary in order to enforce the Canons of Judi-

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cial Ethics and thereby maintain the integrity of the bench of this state, and to make public all findings and conclusions."

The bar association pointed out that it does not have the authority to make such an investigation itself.

THE JUDICIAL Commission will determine whether a hearing is called for after its initial investigation. Should such a hearing be held, it would be confidential. Recommendations to the state Supreme Court then would be made.

If the Judicial Commission finds that violations of the Judicial Code of Ethics were committed, it can recommend either voluntary retirement from the bench or removal by the Supreme Court.

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area this week called Judge Haggerty's conduct "reprehensible," and urged him "to resign from the bench immediately."