

Dean Disbarred-- Unethical Conduct

Alexandria, Va.

A three-judge panel disbarred former presidential counsel John W. Dean III yesterday for what it called unethical, unprofessional and unwarranted conduct in the Watergate affair.

The 35-year-old Dean, who has pleaded guilty to a federal felony charge, did not

address the court in his own defense.

The disbarment action was brought by the Virginia State Bar, which charged that Dean had been guilty of unprofessional conduct by withholding evidence, inducing another to commit perjury, authorizing payment of

Back Page Col. 1



UPI Telephoto

MAUREEN AND JOHN DEAN
They walked away from the Virginia circuit court

From Page 1

hush money to the Watergate burglars and diverting money to his own use.

The three circuit court judges found Dean guilty of "unethical, unprofessional and unwarranted conduct as an attorney at law violating the code of professional ethics."

They ordered that Dean's license to practice law be revoked.

The revocation applies to Virginia and can be appealed to a higher court. Disbarment in one state usually leads to similar actions in other jurisdictions, a legal source said.

Dean's attorney declined to say whether the revocation will be appealed or to what other courts Dean is admitted. Who's Who lists him as being a member also of the District of Columbia bar.

Thomas Mains, Dean's lawyer, told the court in a brief statement that it could reprimand, suspend or disbar Dean.

"We cannot seriously contend that only a reprimand in the final chapter is not yet written in Watergate. Our feeling is that information is largely mitigating in nature as far as Mr. Dean is concerned. We ask that the court consider suspending Dean's license until further order of the court."

The judges reached the harshest decision after deliberating for 80 minutes.

Dean was accompanied by his wife, Maureen, who had been with him during the five days that he testified at

the televised Senate Watergate hearings.

His lawyer said that Dean had never practiced law in Virginia "but values that right."

William L. Cowhig, Commonwealth Attorney in Alexandria, presented the Bar Association's complaint that Dean had been guilty of unprofessional conduct. The only evidence introduced was Dean's plea of guilty in the federal case last October and the transcript of a portion of the Senate hearings where Dean admitted the acts he had been charged with.

The Bar Association asked only that "appropriate disciplinary action be taken."

The panel was composed of State Circuit Court Judges Franklin P. Backus of Alexandria, W. Moscoe Huntley of Richmond and W. Carrington Thompson of Chatham.

Dean, who had testified that President Nixon must have known about the Watergate coverup, was fired last March.

In talking with newsmen, Dean would not say what he has been doing while awaiting sentencing on the federal charge of obstructing justice and defrauding the United States.

"I read a lot of my favorite old books," he said. "I'm very busy, believe it or not."

He said the most recent books he read are Arthur Schlesinger's "The Imperial Presidency," Gore Vidal's "Burr" and George Orwell's "1984."

Associated Press