

Agnew Battle to Avert Disbarment

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Attorneys for Spiro T. Agnew told the Maryland Court of Appeals yesterday that the former vice president's high position and "public outcry" should not affect a decision on whether Agnew should be disbarred.

The attorneys said Agnew, who resigned the vice presidency and pleaded no contest last year to evading about \$13,500 in federal taxes in 1967 when he was governor of Maryland, should only be suspended from practicing law and not disbarred.

Agnew is appealing a unanimous recommendation of a three-judge U.S. Court of Appeals panel that he be disbarred.

Disbarment proceedings were brought against Agnew by the Maryland Bar Association last year after he was convicted of income tax evasion charges in U.S. District Court in Baltimore. He was fined \$10,000 and placed on three years' probation.

"There is no public demand for disbarment, there is a newspaper demand for disbarment," Leon H. A.

Pierson, one of Agnew's lawyers, argued.

"It is true there has been unrest, but this man is entitled to the normal protection of the law," said E. Dale Adkins, Agnew's other attorney. "To say he is subject to public opinion is a dangerous precedent.

Alfred L. Scanlan, a bar association lawyer, said Agnew, who was not at the hearing, should be disbarred because he was convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude and of conduct prejudicial to the conduct of justice.

Scanlan said the appeals judges should also consider the effect of the conviction on the image of the legal profession and the fact that Agnew evaded taxes while serving as Maryland's highest elected official.

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