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Nixon
And the
N.Y. Bar

Washington

Former President Nixon is seeking to resign from the New York State Bar, but the process may prove to be complicated and even embarrassing.

The grievance committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York has been investigating Mr. Nixon's conduct in the Watergate scandals for nearly a year, to determine if he violated any of the canons of ethics that lawyers, practicing and nonpracticing, are bound to observe.

Under ordinary New York procedures, a lawyer who is under disbarment investigation is not permitted to resign simply by filing a request. Approval by the Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court, which oversees professional discipline, is required.

An order by the Appellate Division approving such a resignation may list pending charges against the individual involved, as public notice that he withdrew without any resolution of questions about his professional conduct.

On Monday, one of Mr. Nixon's lawyers said in Sacramento that the former President would resign from the California Bar and presented a letter to this effect from Mr. Nixon to the president of the state Bar Association.

Mr. Nixon is also a member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, but officials there said yesterday they had not received any resignation from him. Aside from arguing one case in 1966, his only activity there involved sponsoring for membership John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel.

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