

High Court to Hear Segretti

The California Supreme Court agreed yesterday to hear arguments by Watergate political prankster Donald H. Segretti on why he should not be disbarred or suspended from the practice of law.

The State Bar has already made a split recommendation to the court — some members saying Segretti should be disbarred and others voting for suspension.

A ten-member disciplinary panel of the bar association

has uniformly agreed that Segretti's actions involved "moral turpitude or other misconduct warranting discipline."

The 33-year-old lawyer has already pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors involving conspiracy to distribute unsigned campaign literature.

Other California lawyers involved in Watergate— John D. Ehrlichman, Robert C. Mardian and Herbert W. Kalmbach — have all been

suspended from the bar because of their felony convictions or guilty pleas which were defined as moral turpitude.

But Segretti, alone, pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and it is now up to the high court to decide whether or not these crimes involved moral turpitude.

Although Segretti has not been formally suspended from the practice of law, he voluntarily gave up his practice in June, 1972.

After serving four months and 20 days of a six-month prison term, Segretti has supported himself on money he makes from lecture tours.