

Court Won't Let Nixon Quit Bar

New York

An attempt by former President Nixon to resign from the state bar has been rejected by a New York court because he has not admitted wrongdoing in connection with the Watergate scandal, sources familiar with the secret legal proceeding said yesterday.

These sources said Mr. Nixon, who has publicly stated that he does not intend to practice law again, would not be permitted to resign from the state bar unless he acknowledged at least some responsibility for Watergate crimes.

If the former President fails to do so, then formal charges would be drawn up, and a proceeding, similar to a trial, would be held. If the former President were found guilty of professional

misconduct, he would then be censured, suspended or disbarred. Mr. Nixon has admitted errors in judgment in the way he handled the Watergate scandal, but he has never acknowledged guilt or responsibility.

According to these sources, the latest development in the two-year investigation of Mr. Nixon came this week when the Appellate Division of Supreme Court for the First Department refused to accept a proposed letter of resignation.

Mr. Nixon, who practiced law in New York until his election in 1968, was also a member of the California and United States Supreme Court bars. He was permitted to resign from both of those bars without admitting any wrongdoing.

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See much more detailed story, NYTimes same date.