SFChronicle Colson Decision

Boston

The state Supreme Court has declined to disbar Charles W. Colson, 43, former special counsel to ex-President Nixon, but has suspended him indefinitely from practicing law in the state.

The court decided on Tuesday that Colson could reapply in July 1979 to regain the right to practice. It noted "an apparent change in the character and attitude of Mr. Colson from the days when he manifested an overbearing self-confidence, an indifference to ethical considerations...

"Time will disclose," it said, "whether this apparent change is a permanent one or merely a transitory manifestation encouraged by its expediency..."

Associated Pres