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A.B.A. ETHICS CODE NEARLY FINISHED

Tentative Findings Will Be Made Public in June

By THOMAS P. RONAN

The chairman of an American Bar Association committee drafting a code of ethics for judges said yesterday that the committee expected to make its "tentative conclusions" known this June.

Former Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor of the California Supreme Court, who heads the committee, said this timetable would permit broad public discussion of the proposals before the committee put them in final form.

The new code, which will replace one adopted by the A.B.A. in 1924, will be voted on at the association's annual convention in St. Louis in August.

Chief Justice Traynor, who retired from the bench in January, was interviewed at the Association of the Bar, 42 West 44th Street, where the nine-member committee met to discuss proposed canons of ethics and to review questionnaires returned to it by judges, various bar associations, law schools and others interested in a new judicial code.

Joining in the discussion was Bernard S. Segal, the A.B.A.'s president, who named the committee of judges and lawyers last September.

Mr. Segal noted then that the association's Canons of Judicial Ethics prescribed the standards of official and personal conduct expected of all judges. He said the time had come to clarify them and adapt them to modern requirements to judicial administration.

His move came at a time when there was considerable criticism of some United States Supreme Court Justices and other judges for off-the-bench activities.

One of the purposes of the questionnaires was to find out just what outside activities were being pursued by judges. Another was to get their views and the views of others on which activities might be considered "appropriate" for judges.