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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *Seven Attorneys Immediately Suspended; Eight Receive Final Orders*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. –The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has recently taken certain disciplinary action against 15 attorneys after charging them with violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. The Rules of Professional Conduct appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 1003 and 1292). In most cases, the disciplinary action is initiated as a result of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions or a criminal conviction.

Although the disciplinary process may vary according to the specific circumstances of each case, generally it includes the following steps:

Disciplinary proceedings begin with a Notice of Intent to Discipline filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) by the Office of the General Counsel of either EOIR or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The BIA requires the attorney to respond to the alleged violations. In some cases, a Petition for Immediate Suspension also is filed and the BIA orders the attorney to be suspended immediately from practice before the immigration courts, the BIA, and the DHS. (DHS joins EOIR in taking the disciplinary action.) Disciplined attorneys are directed to notify promptly, in writing, their clients with pending immigration cases that they may no longer represent them before the BIA, the immigration courts, or the DHS. Disciplined attorneys must petition and be reinstated by the BIA before they can resume the practice of law before the BIA, the immigration courts, and the DHS.

Immediate Suspensions

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorneys:

- **Daniel E. Korenberg:** He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 25, 2007, based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California for one count of conspiracy and two counts of visa fraud, pending final disposition of his case.

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- □ **Barry R. Nager:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 90 days by the Supreme Court of Florida for lack of diligence and dealing improperly with client property. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 16, 2007, based on his suspension in Florida, pending final disposition of his case.
- □ **Mark R. Quinn:** He was disbarred by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals on Aug. 23, 2007. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 23, 2007, based on his disbarment in the District of Columbia, pending final disposition of his case.
- □ **Steven James Rodriguez:** He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 25, 2007, based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California for one count of making false statements, pending final disposition of his case.
- □ **Joseph Raymond Rowe Jr.:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 30 days by the Supreme Court of Florida for violating the state bar rules on attorney advertising and failing to cooperate with the state bar investigation. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 16, 2007, based on his suspension in Florida, pending final disposition of his case.
- □ **Lloyd F. Ukwu:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 1 year by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for multiple violations of the District's rules of professional conduct, including lack of competence, diligence, and communication. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 16, 2007, based on his suspension in the District of Columbia, pending final disposition of his case.
- □ **Rubina Arora Wadhwa:** She was suspended from the practice of law for 9 months by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for issues involving competence, diligence, communication, and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on Oct. 25, 2007, based on her suspension in Pennsylvania, pending final disposition of her case.

Final Orders of Discipline

- **Nathan D. Cooper:** A final order of Oct. 23, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Sept. 26, 2007, based on his suspension in Missouri for a criminal conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri for knowingly and willfully making false and fraudulent statements.
- **Richard Michael Elinski:** A final order of Oct. 10, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Sept. 14, 2007, based on his 6-month suspension in California for violating probation imposed from previous discipline.

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- **Yali Huang:** A final order of Oct. 10, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Sept. 14, 2007, based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas for one count of conspiracy and four counts of visa fraud.
- **Satwant Singh Pandher:** A final order of Oct. 10, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective July 6, 2007, based on his disbarment in Washington state for multiple violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, including incompetence, lack of diligence, and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation.
- **John S. Pomeroy:** A final order of Oct. 10, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 1 year and 1 day, effective July 15, 2005, based on his suspension in Massachusetts for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, including lack of diligence, failure to communicate, and failure to cooperate with the state bar counsel's investigation.
- **John W. Rhee:** A final order of Oct. 25, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 6 months, effective Sept. 14, 2007, based on his 6-month suspension in California for failing to perform legal services with competence, and commingling earned fees and using a trust account to pay for personal expenses.

Adjudicating officials from the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge issued Final Orders of Discipline against the following attorneys:

- **Raymond Eliot Dobbins:** A final order of discipline dated Oct. 15, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 18 months, effective Oct. 1, 2007, based on his false claims of eligibility to practice law in Florida.
- **Hector M. Roman:** A final order of discipline dated Aug. 31, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 6 months based on his 6-month suspension by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit for engaging in negligent and incompetent conduct and violating a number of court rules and orders.

Background

The Rules of Professional Conduct include provisions specifying grounds for disciplinary action, requirements for receiving and investigating complaints, and procedures for conducting hearings. The rules also authorize the BIA to suspend immediately a practitioner who has been subject to disbarment, suspension, or resignation with an admission of misconduct as imposed by a federal or state court, or

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who has been convicted of a serious crime, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction. They are available at http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf.

EOIR announces these disciplinary actions to inform the public about practitioners who are not authorized to represent clients in any matter before an immigration tribunal. EOIR also posts a “List of Disciplined Practitioners” at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/profcond/chart.htm>. In an effort to provide more detailed information about individual attorney discipline cases, every new immediate suspension or final order issued beginning June 27, 2005, can be accessed through this list by clicking on the highlighted “date” link.

Additional information about the Attorney Discipline Program can be found at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/00/profcond.htm> and <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/00/profcondfaks.htm>.

– EOIR –

EOIR, an office within the Department of Justice, is responsible for adjudicating immigration cases. Specifically, under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR interprets and administers federal immigration laws by conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR consists of three components: the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, which is responsible for managing the numerous immigration courts located throughout the United States where immigration judges adjudicate individual cases; the Board of Immigration Appeals, which primarily conducts appellate reviews of immigration judge decisions; and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, which adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to providing fair, expeditious, and uniform application of the nation's immigration laws in all cases.

Information about EOIR immigration proceedings is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/subject.htm>.