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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *Three Attorneys Immediately Suspended; Nine Receive Final Orders; One is Reinstated*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has recently taken disciplinary action against 12 attorneys for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. Further, EOIR has reinstated one attorney to practice.

EOIR announces these disciplinary actions to inform the public about practitioners who are no longer authorized to represent clients before an immigration tribunal. In most cases, EOIR has disciplined the practitioner based on a sanction imposed by another jurisdiction or a criminal conviction.

Disciplinary proceedings begin when the Office of the General Counsel of either EOIR or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), files a Notice of Intent to Discipline with EOIR's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The disciplinary action can result in the suspension or expulsion of a practitioner before the immigration courts, the BIA, and DHS. Attorneys who are suspended or expelled must be reinstated by the BIA before they can resume the practice of law before the BIA, the immigration courts, and DHS.

EOIR has recently taken the following disciplinary actions:

Immediate Suspensions

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorneys:

- **Alain Armand:** He was twice suspended from the practice of law by the Florida Supreme Court for violations of the state bar rules of professional conduct, including rules relating to competence, diligence, and communication. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Dec. 14, 2007, based on his 30-day and 91-day suspensions in Florida, pending final disposition of his case.

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- □ **Rosalind A. Kelly:** She was suspended from the practice of law in Texas for 2 years for violations of the state bar rules of professional conduct, including rules relating to competence, diligence, and communication. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on Dec. 14, 2007, based on her suspension in Texas, pending final disposition of her case.

- □ **Marie Gilberte Thompson, aka Marie Gilberte Estime-Thompson:** She was disbarred by the Florida Supreme Court for failing to comply with a subpoena seeking her attorney trust account records. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on Dec. 14, 2007, based on her disbarment in Florida, pending final disposition of her case.

Final Orders of Discipline

- **Keith G. Jordan:** A final order of Nov. 8, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 9 months, effective July 20, 2007, based on his 9-month suspension in California.

- **Daniel E. Korenberg:** A final order of Dec. 6, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Oct. 25, 2007, based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

- **Barry R. Nager:** A final order of Nov. 15, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 90 days, effective Oct. 16, 2007, based on his 90-day suspension in Florida.

- **Michael Ozulumba:** A final order of Dec. 6, 2007, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 2 years, effective July 20, 2007, based on his 2-year suspension in Massachusetts.

- **Steven James Rodriguez:** A final order of Dec. 6, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Oct. 25, 2007, based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

- **Jonathan Saint Preux:** A final order of Nov. 8, 2007, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective May 18, 2007, based on his criminal conviction in the U.S. District Court in New Jersey.

- **Carol S. Stever:** A final order of Nov. 15, 2007, suspends her from practice before immigration tribunals for 2 ½ years, effective Oct. 19, 2006, based on her 2 ½-year suspension in Pennsylvania.

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- **Rubina Arora Wadhwa:** A final order of Dec. 11, 2007, suspends her from practice before immigration tribunals for 9 months, effective Aug. 30, 2007, based on her 9-month suspension in Pennsylvania.

An adjudicating official from the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge issued a Final Order of Discipline against the following attorney:

- **Eleanor Chen:** A final order of Nov. 8, 2007, suspends her from practice before immigration tribunals for 60 days based on her frivolous behavior in proceedings before the BIA.

Reinstatements

- **Anthony Alvarez:** He was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Nov. 20, 2007, after he completed his 90-day suspension before EOIR, and was reinstated to the practice of law in Florida.

Background

The Rules of Professional Conduct appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 1003 and 1292). They 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 who has been convicted of a serious crime, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction. The Rules of Professional Conduct are available at http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf.

A “List of Disciplined Practitioners” is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/profcond/chart.htm>. In an effort to provide more detailed information about individual attorney discipline cases, every immediate suspension or final order issued 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 agency 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 the fair, expeditious, and uniform interpretation and application of immigration law in all cases.