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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *One Attorney Reinstated; Two Receive Final Orders*

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has reinstated one attorney and has taken disciplinary action against two attorneys after charging them with violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. The Rules appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292). The attorneys' violations arose either out of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions or a criminal conviction.

Disciplinary proceedings began in each case 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 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The BIA required each attorney to respond to the alleged violations. In the first case below, a Petition for Immediate Suspension also was filed, and the BIA ordered the attorney to be suspended immediately from practice before the Immigration Courts, the BIA, and the DHS. (DHS joined EOIR in taking the disciplinary action.)

Reinstatement

The BIA reinstated the following attorney to practice before the immigration tribunals after he had completed his period of suspension:

- ! **Brad Alan Alexander:** He was reinstated on January 8, 2004, after he was reinstated to practice law in Florida.

Final Orders of Discipline

The BIA issued Final Orders of Discipline against the following attorneys:

- ! **Aloysius O. Ejimakor:** He filed many notices of appearance with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, in which he misrepresented his status as a member in good standing of the New York bar. The final order of January 8, 2004, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 9 months.

(more)

Attorney Discipline

Page 2

! **Imevbore Michael Ojo:** He filed many notices of appearance with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, in which he misrepresented his status as a member in good standing of the Texas bar. The final order of January 8, 2004, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 30 days.

Summary

In each of the disciplinary matters cited above, the disciplined attorney was directed to notify promptly, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the BIA, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that he may no longer represent clients before these tribunals.

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 immediately suspend a practitioner who has been subject to disbarment, suspension, or resignation with an admission of misconduct as imposed by a state or Federal court, or who has been convicted of a serious crime, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction. They are available on the EOIR Web site 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 any matter before an immigration tribunal. EOIR also posts a “List of Suspended and Expelled Practitioners” on its Web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir> (near the bottom of EOIR’s home page).

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> on the EOIR Web site.

EOIR is a component of the Department of Justice which, on behalf of the Attorney General, adjudicates cases involving aliens who are charged with immigration violations. EOIR has more than 220 Immigration Judges located in 52 Immigration Courts nationwide to conduct proceedings and decide cases, the BIA to hear appeals of Immigration Judge decisions, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer to handle employment-related immigration matters.

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