



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Office of the Director
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
(703) 305-0289 Fax: (703) 605-0365
Internet: www.usdoj.gov/eoir/

October 20, 2006

EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *Five Attorneys Immediately Suspended; Seven Receive Final Orders; One Is Reinstated*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has taken disciplinary action against 12 attorneys after charging them with violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. One attorney was reinstated. 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attorneys are directed to notify promptly, in writing, their clients with pending immigration cases that they may no longer represent them before the BIA, the immigration courts, or the DHS.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 Suspension

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorneys:

- **P. Lee Clay:** He was suspended from the practice of law by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals for non-compliance with the state rules concerning mandatory continuing legal education requirements. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 13, 2006, based on his suspension in West Virginia, pending final disposition of his case.

(more)

Attorney Discipline

Pate 2

- **Sergei Danilov:** He was convicted in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland for conspiracy to commit labor certification fraud. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 13, 2006, based on his criminal conviction, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Eric J. Kapoor:** He was disbarred from the practice of law by the Court of Appeals of Maryland for numerous violations of the state rules of professional conduct, including knowingly making false statements, failing to act with reasonable diligence, and engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 26, 2006, based on his disbarment in Maryland, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Patrick John McGreal:** He was disbarred from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Illinois for violating the rules of professional conduct. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 26, 2006, based on his disbarment in Illinois, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Abdoulai A. Swareh:** He was disbarred from the practice of law by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for violating the rules of professional conduct. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 13, 2006, based on his disbarment in the District of Columbia, pending final disposition of his case.

Final Orders of Discipline

The BIA issued a Final Order of Discipline against the following attorneys:

- **Richard Paul Condon:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective July 19, 2006, based on his disbarment in Florida for numerous violations of the state's rules of professional conduct, including failure to act with reasonable diligence, failure to communicate, and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- **Larry Johnson:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 7 years, effective May 19, 2006, based on his disbarment in New York for failing to appear or apply in writing for a hearing or reinstatement after being ordered suspended in November 2004.
- **Margot S. Jones:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends her from practice before immigration tribunals for 2 years, effective June 27, 2006, based on her suspension in Pennsylvania for numerous violations of the state's rules of professional conduct, including incompetence, failure to communicate, and engaging in conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

(more)

Attorney Discipline

Pate 3

- **James Carlisle Regan:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective January 30, 2006, based on his disbarment in California for illegally splitting fees with a non-lawyer, engaging in false advertising, committing an act of moral turpitude, and aiding in the unauthorized practice of law relating to immigration matters.
- **Mitchell L. Singer:** A final order of September 25, 2006, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective February 13, 2006, based on his disbarment in New York for a felony conviction for grand larceny, and for misrepresentation of his qualifications to the DHS.
- **Rickey A. Watson:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 12 months, effective July 12, 2006, based on his suspension in Texas for numerous violations of the state rules of professional conduct, including neglect, failure to communicate, and permitting a non-lawyer's conduct to be in violation of the rules.
- **Milton Gary Wolf:** A final order of September 13, 2006, suspends him indefinitely, from practice before immigration tribunals, effective July 19, 2006, based on his criminal conviction in California for grand theft.

Reinstatement

The BIA reinstated the following attorney to practice before the immigration tribunals:

- **Mahmoud Alsafty:** He was reinstated on September 13, 2006, after being reinstated to practice law in New York, following a 1-year suspension for numerous violations of the rules of professional conduct.

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 who has been convicted of a serious crime, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction. They are available on the EOIR website 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" on its website 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. Links to older orders, issued since July 2000, will be included gradually.

(more)

Attorney Discipline
Pate 4

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 website.

– EOIR –

EOIR 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 on EOIR's website <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/subject.htm>.