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NEWS RELEASE

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October 24, 2002

EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *One Receives Final Orders; Three Receive Immediate Suspension*

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has taken disciplinary action against four attorneys after charging them with violations of the rules of professional conduct for immigration practitioners provided in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292). The attorneys' rule violations arose out of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions.

Disciplinary proceedings began in each case with a Petition for Immediate Suspension and Notice of Intent to Discipline filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) by EOIR's Office of the General Counsel. The BIA then ordered each attorney to be suspended immediately from practice before the Immigration Courts, the BIA, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and required the attorney to respond to the alleged violations.

Final Order of Discipline

The BIA issued a Final Order of Discipline against the following attorney after he failed to respond as required to the Notice of Intent to Discipline:

- **Thomas J. O'Grady**, disbarred from the practice of law in the state of Florida, was immediately suspended by the BIA on April 17, 2002. The Final Order of October 7, 2002, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for five years.

Immediate Suspensions

The BIA ordered immediate suspensions of the following attorneys:

- **Richard Acevedo**, disbarred from the practice of law in Texas, was suspended by the BIA on October 8, 2002, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Wayne A. Rodney**, suspended from the practice of law in Pennsylvania, was suspended by the BIA on October 7, 2002, pending final disposition of his case.

(more)

Disciplinary Actions

- **Victor S. Martinez**, suspended from the practice of law in California, was suspended by the BIA on October 9, 2002, pending final disposition of his case.

Summary

In each of the disciplinary matters cited above, the suspended attorney was directed to notify promptly, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the BIA, the Immigration Courts, or the INS that he or she may no longer represent clients before these tribunals.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 suspend immediately a practitioner who has been subject to disbarment, suspension, or resignation with an admission of misconduct as imposed by a state or federal court, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction.

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 www.usdoj.gov/eoir.

Additional information about the Attorney Discipline Program can be found at www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/00/profcond.htm and www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/00/profcondfaks.htm on the EOIR Web site.

EOIR, a component of the Department of Justice, is responsible for providing due process to individuals who are charged with immigration law violations. EOIR has more than 220 Immigration Judges located in 51 Immigration Courts nationwide to conduct proceedings and decide individual cases. The agency also includes 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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