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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct** *One Attorney Immediately Suspended; Four Receive Final Orders*

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has taken disciplinary action against five 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 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 the 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in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the BIA, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that they may no longer represent clients before these tribunals. 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:

- **Douglas D. Osterloh:** He was suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Washington. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on November 24, 2004, pending final disposition of his case.

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**Final Orders of Discipline**

Adjudicating Officials issued Final Orders of Discipline against the following attorneys:

- **Denise A. Maniscalco:** She was suspended from the practice of law for 3 years by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board for violating numerous disciplinary rules in her handling of a domestic relations case and an immigration matter. While she was immediately suspended by the BIA on December 23, 2003, the BIA stayed its immediate suspension order pending a decision by the Supreme Court of Virginia on Attorney Maniscalco's appeal. The Supreme Court of Virginia dismissed the appeal; therefore, the BIA lifted the stay it previously had imposed in this disciplinary matter. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 1, 2004, pending final disposition of her case. The final order of November 22, 2004, issued by Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Anne J. Greer, suspends her from practice before the immigration tribunals for 32 months and 3 days, effective October 19, 2004.
- **J. Thomas Logan:** The final order of November 18, 2004, issued by Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Daniel Echavarren, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 60 days, effective December 1, 2004, based on his repeated failures to appear for scheduled hearings in a timely manner without good cause.

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

- **Sheri Paige:** She was suspended from the practice of law for 1 year by the Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk, Connecticut, for allegations of misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on November 4, 2004, pending final disposition of her case. The final order of November 24, 2004, expels her from practice before the immigration tribunals.
- **Thomas Christopher Jones:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 30 months by the Supreme Court of Illinois for failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in immigration matters. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on October 6, 2004, pending final disposition of his case. The final order of November 30, 2004, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 30 days, effective November 30, 2004.

**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 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf).

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## **Attorney Discipline**

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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 charges of immigration violations. EOIR has more than 200 Immigration Judges located in 53 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.