



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/

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

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has recently taken disciplinary action against 11 attorneys for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. One attorney was reinstated.

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:

- **Michael C. Allen:** He was suspended indefinitely from the practice of law by the Kansas Supreme Court for violations of its rules regarding diligent representation, client communication, termination of representation, and expediting litigation. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on March 11, 2009, based on his indefinite suspension in Kansas, pending final disposition of his case.

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- **Christian De Olivas:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 1 year by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on March 20, 2009, based on his 1-year suspension in California, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Michael Mitry Hadeed, Jr.:** He was found guilty of a serious crime in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on March 11, 2009, based on his conviction in Virginia, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Emil J. Molin:** He was suspended indefinitely from the practice of law by the Indiana Supreme Court for failing to cooperate with a disciplinary investigation. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on March 11, 2009, based on his indefinite suspension in Indiana, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Patrick G. Tzeuton:** He was found guilty of a serious crime in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on March 11, 2009, based on his conviction in Maryland, pending final disposition of his case.

Final Orders of Discipline

- **Mario A. Ruiz De La Torre:** A final order of March 20, 2009, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 18 months, effective Feb. 19, 2009, based on his 18-month suspension in Florida.
- **Jacqueline M. Fernandez:** A final order of March 6, 2009, suspends her from practice before immigration tribunals for 18 months, effective Nov. 20, 2008, based on her 18-month suspension in Florida.
- **Adenet Medacier:** A final order of March 20, 2009, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective Feb. 11, 2009, based on his 5-year disbarment in Florida.
- **Ngoyi Paul Ngoyi:** A final order of March 20, 2009, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective Aug. 21, 2008, based on his disbarment in Texas.
- **Kevin M. Shepherd:** A final order of March 20, 2009, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 1 year, effective Feb. 11, 2009, based on his 1-year suspension in Michigan.

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- **Ihab Tartir:** A final order of Feb. 24, 2009, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Nov. 13, 2008, based on his criminal conviction in New York.

Reinstatement

- **Kelechi Charles Emeziem:** He was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on March 11, 2009, after he completed his 18-month suspension before EOIR.

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 and http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2008_2009/fr18dec08c.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/09/AttorneyDisciplineFactSheet.pdf>.

— EOIR —

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR’s immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals—who are charged by the Department of Homeland Security with violating immigration law—should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR’s Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.