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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *Six 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 12 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:

- **Chandra Mahinda Bogollagama:** His license to practice law was revoked by the Circuit Court of the County of Fairfax, Va., for engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on July 24, 2008, based on the revocation of his license, pending final disposition of his case.

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- **Joseph M. Carreiro:** He was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Mass. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Aug. 1, 2008, based on his suspension in Massachusetts, pending final disposition of his case.
- **John Himmelstein:** He was suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Mass., for 1 year and 1 day for violating the commonwealth's rules of professional conduct. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on Aug. 1, 2008, based on his suspension in Massachusetts, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Aman Lopez:** He was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Mass. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on July 24, 2008, based on his suspension in Massachusetts, pending final disposition of his case.
- **Fernando E. Perez-Pena:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 60 days by the Washington State Supreme Court for assaulting a client and failing to return an unearned fee. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on July 24, 2008, based on his suspension and ultimate resignation in Washington, pending final disposition of his case.
- **John Udo:** He was administratively suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Mass. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on July 3, 2008, based on his suspension in Massachusetts, pending final disposition of his case.

Final Orders of Discipline

- **Tricia-Ann Abigail Blair:** A final order of Aug. 19, 2008, expels her from practice before immigration tribunals, effective June 24, 2008, based on her disbarment in Florida.
- **Melvin Duke:** An adjudicating official issued a final order of June 30, 2008, expelling him from practice before immigration tribunals, based on his disbarment in New York.
- **Mirosław Thomas Lobasz:** A final order of Aug. 1, 2008, suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for 3 years, effective June 24, 2008, based on his 3-year suspension in Florida.

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- **Charles R. Marcus:** A final order of July 24, 2008, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective April 9, 2008, based on his suspension and ultimate resignation in New Mexico.
- **Maqsood Mir:** A final order of July 9, 2008, expels him from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Sept. 16, 2005, based on his conviction in Maryland.
- **Anthony Nwosu:** An adjudicating official issued a final order of May 21, 2008, suspending him from practice before immigration tribunals for 18 months, effective Jan. 18, 2008, based on his 18-month suspension in New York.

Reinstatement

- **Mark H. Teklinski:** He was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Aug. 8, 2008, after he completed his 60-day 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.

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/00/profcondfaks.htm>.

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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 (DHS) 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.