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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct *Four Attorneys Immediately Suspended; Seven Receive Final Orders; Two Are 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. Two attorneys have been 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 either a criminal conviction or a sanction that another jurisdiction imposed.

Disciplinary proceedings begin when the Office of the General Counsel of either EOIR or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 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. Before a suspended or expelled attorney can resume the practice of law before the immigration courts, the BIA and DHS, the BIA must reinstate that attorney.

EOIR has recently taken the following disciplinary actions:

Immediate Suspensions

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorneys:

- **Theodore A. Mahr:** The Supreme Court of Washington suspended Mr. Mahr from the practice of law for three years for multiple violations of the state's rules of professional conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 27, 2010, based on Mr. Mahr's three-year suspension in Washington and pending final disposition of his case.

(more)

- **Manuel O. Montelongo:** The Supreme Court of Nevada disbarred Mr. Montelongo from the practice of law, by consent, for multiple violations of the state's rules of professional conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 27, 2010, based on Mr. Montelongo's disbarment and pending final disposition of his case.
- **Antonio Reyes-Vidal:** The District Court, Bexar County, Texas, 285th Judicial District, disbarred Mr. Reyes-Vidal from the practice of law for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and for knowingly making a false statement of fact in connection with a disciplinary matter. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 27, 2010, based on Mr. Reyes-Vidal's disbarment and pending final disposition of his case.
- **Toan Q. Thai:** The District of Columbia Court of Appeals suspended Mr. Thai from the practice of law for 30 days for multiple violations of the district's rules of professional conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 27, 2010, based on Mr. Thai's 30-day suspension in the District of Columbia and pending final disposition of his case.

Final Orders of Discipline

- **Peter A. Allen:** The Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Mass., suspended Mr. Allen from the practice of law for one year and one day for multiple violations of the commonwealth's rules of professional conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Dec. 22, 2009, based on Mr. Allen's suspension in Massachusetts and pending final disposition of his case. A final order of Feb. 17, 2010, suspends Mr. Allen from practice before immigration tribunals for one year and one day, effective Dec. 22, 2009, based on his suspension in Massachusetts.
- **Jody Brion:** The Supreme Court of Alaska suspended Ms. Brion from the practice of law for one year for multiple violations of the state's rules of professional conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 5, 2010, based on Ms. Brion's one-year suspension in Alaska and pending final disposition of her case. A final order of Jan. 27, 2010, suspends Ms. Brion from practice before immigration tribunals for one year, effective Jan. 5, 2010, based on her suspension in Alaska.
- **Beth Ann Broyles:** A final order of Jan. 13, 2010, expels Ms. Broyles from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Nov. 19, 2009, based on her conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

(more)

Attorney Discipline

Page 3

- **Li Nan Chiang:** A final order of Jan. 25, 2010, suspends Mr. Chiang indefinitely from practice before immigration tribunals, based on his disbarment by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and his 120-day suspension by the Supreme Court of Illinois.
- **Dan P. Danilov:** A final order of Jan. 13, 2010, suspends Mr. Danilov indefinitely from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Sept. 25, 2003, based on his resigning while disciplinary proceedings against him were pending in Washington State.
- **T. Anthony Guajardo:** A final order of Dec. 2, 2009, publicly censures Mr. Guajardo and suspends him from practice before immigration tribunals for six months, stayed, with conditions, based on his failure to appear for scheduled hearings in a timely manner.
- **Karen Jaffe:** A final order of Jan. 13, 2010, suspends Ms. Jaffe indefinitely from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Nov. 17, 2009, based on her suspension by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

Reinstatement

- **Stephen A. Rodriguez:** Mr. Rodriguez was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Jan. 13, 2010, after completing his indefinite suspension.
- **Chester Lee Wheless Jr.:** Mr. Wheless was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Jan. 5, 2010, after completing his 5-year suspension.

Background

The Rules of Professional Conduct appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 C.F.R. §§ 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.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf and http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2008_2009/fr18dec08c.pdf.

(more)

Attorney Discipline

Page 4

A list of disciplined practitioners is available at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/profcond/chart.htm>. In an effort to provide more detailed information about individual attorney discipline cases, every immediate suspension or final order an attorney receives is accessible by clicking on the highlighted data link in this list.

Additional information about the Attorney Discipline Program can be found at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/00/profcond.htm> and <http://www.justice.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.