



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: Public Affairs Office
(703)305-0289, Fax: (703)605-0365
Internet: www.usdoj.gov/eoir

March 19, 2003

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

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. These rules appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292). The attorneys' 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 Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, which is a part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The BIA also required the attorneys to respond to the alleged violations.

Final Orders of Discipline

The BIA issued Final Orders of Discipline against the following attorneys after they failed to respond, as required, to the Notice of Intent to Discipline:

- ! **Jose Luis Trujillo**, disbarred from the practice of law in Utah, was suspended by the BIA on November 6, 2002, pending final disposition of his case. The Final Order of January 2, 2003, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for five years.
- ! **Boris A. Krivonos**, who pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States in connection with his handling of one or more diversity immigrant visa matters, was expelled from practice before the immigration tribunals by the BIA by a Final Order of January 30, 2003.

An Immigration Judge issued a Final Order of Discipline against the following attorney:

- ! **Joseph Francis Muto** was suspended from practice before the immigration tribunals for seven years, effective January 28, 2003.

(more)

Disciplinary Actions

Page 2

Immediate Suspension

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorney:

- ! **James C. Dragon**, disbarred from the practice of law in Massachusetts, was suspended by the BIA on January 30, 2003, pending final disposition of his case.

Reinstatement

The BIA reinstated the following attorney to practice before the immigration tribunals after he had completed his period of suspension:

- ! **Akhtar Hussain** was reinstated February 25, 2003, after he was reinstated to practice law in Florida. He previously was suspended from the practice of law in Florida for a period of 90 days and also was suspended by the BIA. By a Final Order of February 25, 2003, the BIA made his suspension retroactive to October 1, 2002, and reinstated him.

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 DHS 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 52 Immigration Courts nationwide to conduct proceedings and decide individual cases. The agency also includes the BIA to hear appeals of Immigration Judge and DHS field directors' decisions, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer to handle employment-related immigration matters.