## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)
Complainant,	)
v.	) 8 U.S.C. § 1324a Proceeding ) OCAHO Case No. 2024A00130 )
RE SIGNATURE HOMES, LLC, Respondent.	) ) )

Appearances: Christopher R. Ford, Esq., for Complainant Javier N. Maldonado, Esq., and Allison N. Boyle, Esq., for Respondent

## ORDER GRANTING COMPLAINANT'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF DISCOVERY SCHEDULE

On May 16, 2025, Complainant filed an unopposed motion to suspend discovery deadlines in this case. Complainant represents that "[t]he parties have reached terms for a settlement agreement and require additional time to complete the agreement and obtains signatures." Mot. Suspend Disc. 1. Complainant notes that counsel for Respondent is "in agreement with the suspension of the discovery deadlines in this case." <u>Id.</u>

OCAHO's regulations "vest the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with all appropriate powers necessary to regulate the proceedings." Heath v. Amazee Glob. Ventures, Inc., 16 OCAHO no. 1433, 2 (2022) (citing Hsieh v. PMC-Sierra, Inc., 9 OCAHO no. 1091, 5 (2003)); 1 28 C.F.R. § 68.28(a). "This includes the power to issue stays of proceedings." US Tech Workers v. Fifth Third Bank, 19 OCAHO no. 1550, 2 (2024) (citing United States v. Black Belt Sec. & Investigations, 17 OCAHO no. 1456b, 2 (2023)). In using this power, the ALJ must exercise judgment and "weigh competing interests," and decline to issue a stay "absent a clear bar to moving ahead." Heath v. ConsultAdd, 15 OCAHO no. 1395b, 2 (2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Citations to OCAHO precedents in bound volumes one through eight include the volume and case number of the particular decision followed by the specific page in the bound volume where the decision begins; the pinpoint citations which follow are to the pages, seriatim, of the specific entire volume. Pinpoint citations to OCAHO precedents after volume eight, where the decision has not yet been reprinted in a bound volume, are to pages within the original issuances; the beginning page number of an unbound case will always be 1 and is accordingly omitted from the citation. Published decisions may be accessed through the Westlaw database "FIM OCAHO," the LexisNexis database "OCAHO," and on the United States Department of Justice's website: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/office-of-the-chief-administrative-hearing-officer-decisions.

Here, the parties represent that finalization of a settlement agreement is imminent, which would bring an end to these proceedings. Accordingly, the undersigned finds a stay of proceedings to be appropriate to allow the parties to resolve this matter on their own terms. Accordingly, Complainant's motion is GRANTED, and all deadlines in these proceedings are STAYED pending the parties' filing of a motion to dismiss the complaint pursuant to a settlement agreement.

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on May 23, 2025.

Honorable John A. Henderson Administrative Law Judge