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NEWS RELEASE

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

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has reinstated one attorney and has taken disciplinary action against three attorneys after charging them with violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for immigration practitioners. The Rules appear in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292). The attorneys' violations arose either out of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions or a criminal conviction.

Disciplinary proceedings began in each case with a Notice of Intent to Discipline filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) by the Office of the General Counsel of either EOIR or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The BIA required each attorney to respond to the alleged violations. A Petition for Immediate Suspension also was filed, and the BIA ordered the attorneys to be suspended immediately from practice before the Immigration Courts, the BIA, and the DHS. (DHS joined EOIR in taking the disciplinary action.)

Immediate Suspension

The BIA ordered the immediate suspension of the following attorney:

- ! **Denise A. Maniscalco:** She was suspended from the practice of law for 3 years by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board for violating numerous disciplinary rules in handling two matters – a domestic relations case and an immigration matter. She was immediately suspended by the BIA on December 23, 2003, pending final disposition of her case.

Final Orders of Discipline

The BIA issued Final Orders of Discipline against the following attorneys:

- ! **Horace Hugo Perez:** He was suspended from the practice of law for 60 days by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, based on actions taken in an immigration case. He was immediately suspended by the BIA on September 15, 2003, pending final disposition of his case. The final order of November 25, 2003, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 60 days, effective September 15, 2003.

(more)

! **Edward N. Daneri:** He was disbarred from the practice of law in Texas, and was suspended by the BIA on April 30, 2003, pending final disposition of his case. The final order of December 17, 2003, suspends him from practice before the immigration tribunals for 5 years, effective April 30, 2003.

Reinstatement

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

! **Joseph Lopez-Wilson:** He was reinstated on December 4, 2003, after he was reinstated to practice law in Nebraska.

Summary

In each of the disciplinary matters cited above, the disciplined 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 immediately suspend a practitioner who has been subject to disbarment, suspension, or resignation with an admission of misconduct as imposed by a state or Federal court, or who has been convicted of a serious crime, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction. They are available on the EOIR Web site at http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf.

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 <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir> (near the bottom of EOIR's home page).

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> on the EOIR Web site.

EOIR is a component of the Department of Justice which, on behalf of the Attorney General, adjudicates cases involving aliens who are charged with immigration violations. EOIR has more than 220 Immigration Judges located in 52 Immigration Courts nationwide to conduct proceedings and decide cases, the BIA to hear appeals of Immigration Judge decisions, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer to handle employment-related immigration matters.