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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **EOIR Announces Latest Disciplinary Actions Under Rules of Professional Conduct** *Twenty-Four Attorneys Immediately Suspended; Twelve Receive Final Orders*

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 attorneys and representatives. Two attorneys were reinstated.

EOIR announces these disciplinary actions to inform the public about attorneys and representatives who are no longer authorized to represent clients before an immigration tribunal. These names will be added to the list of disciplined immigration attorneys and representatives, which is available at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/profcond/chart.htm>. The list includes links to immediate suspension orders, final orders, and reinstatement orders issued in each disciplinary case.

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 Petition for Immediate Suspension and/or a Notice of Intent to Discipline with EOIR's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The disciplinary action can result in the public censure, suspension or expulsion of an attorney or representative 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:

- **Samuel N. Omwenga:** The District of Columbia Court of Appeals temporarily suspended Mr. Omwenga from the practice of law. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Dec. 16, 2010, based on Mr. Omwenga's temporary suspension in the District of Columbia and pending final disposition of his case.

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- **Leonardo Adrian Roth:** The Supreme Court of Florida suspended Mr. Roth from the practice of law for violating the State's Rules of Professional Conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 26, 2011, based on Mr. Roth's suspension in Florida and pending final disposition of his case.
- **Giselle M. Samuely:** The New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, suspended Ms. Samuely from the practice of law for 2 years for conduct involving neglect; dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and conduct adversely reflecting on her fitness to practice law. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 26, 2011, based on Ms. Samuely's 2-year suspension in New York and pending final disposition of her case.
- **Yan Wang:** The United States Court of Appeals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit initiated disciplinary proceedings against Ms. Wang for engaging in conduct warranting discipline. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Jan. 4, 2011, based on Ms. Wang's resignation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, while disciplinary proceedings were pending in that court, and pending final disposition of her case. A settlement agreement of Jan. 26, 2011, suspends Ms. Wang from practice before immigration tribunals for six months, effective Jan. 4, 2011, based on her resignation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, while disciplinary proceedings were pending in that court.

**Final Orders of Discipline**

- **Robert Eugene Bennett:** The Supreme Court of Illinois suspended Mr. Bennett from the practice of law for 6 months for engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, lacking diligence, and for conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Dec. 2, 2010, based on Mr. Bennett's 6-month suspension in Illinois and pending final disposition of his case. A final order of Jan. 6, 2011, suspends Mr. Bennett from practice before immigration tribunals for 9 months, effective Dec. 2, 2010, based on his 6-month suspension in Illinois.
- **Anita C. Kanu, aka Anita C. Justin, aka Anita Chinatu Ogbuji:** A final order of Dec. 7, 2010, expels Ms. Kanu from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Oct. 28, 2010, based on her disbarment in the District of Columbia.
- **Earl D. Munroe:** The Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Massachusetts, suspended Mr. Munroe from the practice of law for 2 ½ years for violating the Commonwealth's Rules of Professional Conduct. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Dec. 7, 2010, based on Mr. Munroe's 2 ½-year suspension in Massachusetts and pending final disposition of his case. A final order of Jan. 4, 2011, suspends Mr. Bennett from practice before immigration tribunals for 2 ½ years, effective Dec. 7, 2010, based on his 2 ½-year suspension in Massachusetts.

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- **Joseph Raymond Rowe, Jr.:** A final order of Dec. 16, 2010, expels Mr. Rowe from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Oct. 16, 2007, based on his 30-day suspension in Florida.
- **Ronald S. Salomon:** The United States Court of Appeals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit suspended Mr. Salomon from the practice of law for 3 months for conduct lacking competence and diligence in 125 cases. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Nov. 23, 2010, based on Mr. Salomon's 3-month suspension by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit and pending final disposition of his case. A final order of Feb. 3, 2011, suspends Mr. Salomon from practice before immigration tribunals for 6 months, effective Nov. 23, 2010, based on his 3-month suspension by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit and for 2 previously issued informal admonitions by the EOIR Disciplinary Counsel.
- **Regina D. Steele:** A final order of Jan. 4, 2011, expels Ms. Steele from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Aug. 11, 2005, based on her disbarment in California.
- **Shelly Flowers Winn:** The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas convicted Ms. Flowers of making a false statement to a federal agency. The BIA granted the government's petition for immediate suspension on Dec. 7, 2010, based on her criminal conviction in Texas and pending final disposition of her case. A final order of Jan. 20, 2011, expels Ms. Winn from practice before immigration tribunals, effective Dec. 7, 2010, based on her criminal conviction in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

## Reinstatement

- **Jorge De La Mar:** Mr. De La Mar was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Jan. 26, 2011, after completing his 60-day suspension in Florida.
- **Brenna L. Stewart:** Ms. Stewart was reinstated to practice before immigration tribunals on Jan. 5, 2011, after completing her 6-month suspension in New York, and being reinstated to the practice of law in that state.

## 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 an attorney or representative 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

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[http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000\\_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2000_2001/fr27jn00R.pdf) and  
[http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2008\\_2009/fr18dec08c.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/vll/fedreg/2008_2009/fr18dec08c.pdf).

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>.

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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 — whom the Department of Homeland Security charges 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.*