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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Suspends 10 More Immigration Practitioners

Disciplinary Actions Taken under Amended Rules of Professional Conduct

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has formally suspended 10 more attorneys from practicing before the Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals (the Board), and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. With these suspensions, EOIR has taken disciplinary action against 24 attorneys since the Rules of Professional Conduct for Immigration Practitioners, in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292), were amended last summer.

The Board ordered immediate suspensions of the attorneys named below, for the reasons stated, after EOIR's Office of the General Counsel filed petitions for immediate suspension and Notices of Intent to Discipline on grounds of professional conduct rule violations arising out of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions:

Ida Katherine Warren, suspended for 1 year by the Supreme Court of Indiana;

Grosvenor Anshell, suspended for 2 years by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington;

Lijyasu M. Kandekore, suspended by the Supreme Court of Florida and disbarred by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, following his conviction of second degree assault, resisting arrest, and the lesser included offense of driving while ability impaired;

Reginald Egan Darbonne, disbarred by the Supreme Court of Florida;

Allan M. Elster, suspended for 3 years by the Supreme Court of Florida;

Deborah J. Kartje, who resigned from the Illinois bar with an admission of misconduct;

Mark E. Maier, suspended indefinitely by the Court of Appeals of the State of Maryland;

George A. Verdin, suspended indefinitely by both the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii and the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii;

Arthur G. Williamson, disbarred by the Supreme Court of New Jersey; and

Angel R. Pena, disbarred by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

The amended rules of professional conduct, published in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2000, and effective on July 27, include provisions specifying grounds for disciplinary action, requirements for receiving and investigating complaints, and procedures for conducting hearings. The rules also authorize the Board 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, pending a summary proceeding and final sanction.

In the matters cited above, the Board's orders direct the suspended attorneys "to promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the Service that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies."

Each suspended attorney also received a Notice of Intent to Discipline directing him or her to respond within 30 days to the charges. In the response, each may state his or her defenses against the imposition of the recommended final discipline and seek a hearing.

EOIR announces these actions to inform the public of its ongoing efforts to prevent or correct misconduct and misrepresentation by immigration practitioners. EOIR also posts a list of suspended and expelled practitioners on its Web site at www.usdoj.gov/eoir.