



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Executive Office for Immigration Review

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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December 19, 2000

**Board of Immigration Appeals Issues Final Orders Suspending 10 Immigration Practitioners**

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has served the 10 attorneys named below with Final Orders of Discipline formally suspending them from practice before the Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals (the Board), and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Each of these attorneys had received a Notice of Intent to Discipline charging him or her with violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct for Immigration Practitioners provided in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Parts 3 and 292). In each case, the rule violations arose out of sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions, which authorized the Board to order the immediate suspension of each attorney pending final disposition of the disciplinary proceeding.

The Board's Final Order of Discipline results from each attorney's failure to respond to the Notice of Intent to Discipline. The failure to respond to allegations in a Notice of Intent to Discipline constitutes admission of the rule violations.

The names of the attorneys and the grounds for disciplinary action are listed below. 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir).

**Nicholas Grapsas**, suspended for 6 months by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, was suspended by final order of the Board on October 23, 2000, for 6 months beginning September 15, 2000, the date of the initial order of suspension.

**Kenneth R. Rastello**, suspended for 180 days by the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board, was suspended by final order of the Board on November 3, 2000, for 180 days beginning on August 10, 2000.

**Sheldon Irwin Walker** was disbarred by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, following his conviction in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, of Conspiracy to Make False Statements and Commit Fraud, False Statements, and Mail Fraud. He was expelled by final order of the Board on November 30, 2000, effective September 15, 2000.

**Robert Paul Muenchrath**, suspended indefinitely by the Supreme Court of Minnesota, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 4, 2000, for an indefinite period beginning on September 28, 2000.

**Antonio Reyes-Vidal**, suspended 84 months (with 60 months probated) by the District Court of Bexar, Texas, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 4, 2000, for 84 months, beginning on August 10, 2000. After 24 months, he will be given an opportunity for conditional reinstatement in keeping with any similar probationary action taken by the State bar.

**Frank W. Ricci**, suspended by the Supreme Court of Indiana after pleading guilty to the crime of money laundering before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, was expelled by final order of the Board on December 4, 2000.

**Sylvia Anita Ryan**, suspended for 4 months by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and suspended for 1 year by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 4, 2000, for 1 year, beginning on September 15, 2000.

**Paige Elizabeth Samsky**, disbarred by the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 4, 2000, for 3 years, beginning on September 15, 2000.

**Mark E. Maier**, suspended indefinitely by the Court of Appeals of the State of Maryland, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 12, 2000, beginning on December 4, 2000.

**Curtis L. Solomon**, having failed to seek or be granted reinstatement following a 30-day suspension ordered in 1991 by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, was suspended by final order of the Board on December 12, 2000, for 30 days, beginning on October 23, 2000. The order also requires him to be reinstated to practice law in the District of Columbia before seeking reinstatement before EOIR and INS.

In the matters cited above, the Board directed 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."