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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR Improving Attorney Discipline Program *Complaint Form Now Available in Spanish*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announced today that efforts to improve its Attorney Discipline Program are ongoing. Key regulatory and administrative initiatives include:

- Implementing new professional conduct rules for attorneys and practitioners that expanded categories of behavior that constitute misconduct;
- Creating a Deputy Disciplinary Counsel position to better handle the increasing number of complaints received annually;
- Establishing an Adjudicating Official corps, comprised of immigration judges and an administrative law judge, to preside over attorney discipline hearings nationwide; and
- Providing Spanish-language translations of important news and information about the program.

“The goal of our Attorney Discipline Program is to preserve the fairness and integrity of immigration proceedings, maintain high professional standards among immigration practitioners, and protect the public we serve,” said EOIR’s Acting Director, Thomas Snow.

Most recently, EOIR developed a Spanish-language version of the Immigration Practitioner Complaint Form, EOIR-44, which is available online at http://www.justice.gov/eoir/eoirforms/eoir44_spanish.pdf. The EOIR-44 is a vital part of EOIR’s Attorney Discipline Program, allowing individuals to file a complaint about the conduct of an immigration attorney or representative while practicing before EOIR. EOIR expects that providing the form in Spanish will expand the agency’s outreach to Spanish-only speakers, who may be vulnerable to unscrupulous immigration practitioners and who may face challenges in filing a complaint in English.

Information about EOIR’s Attorney Discipline Program and the complaint process is available at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/09/AttorneyDisciplineFactSheet.pdf>. EOIR’s list of disciplined attorneys is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/profcond/chart.htm>.

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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 (DHS) 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.