

§513.5

or order entered in a judicial or administrative proceeding described in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) or (c)(1)(ii) of this section has become effective and all review or appeal procedures have been completed or are no longer available.

(3) Any person temporarily suspended from appearing and practicing before the Office in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section may, within 30 days after service upon him of the order of temporary suspension, petition the Office to lift such suspension. If no petition is received by the Office within those 30 days, the suspension shall become permanent.

(4) Within 30 days after the filing of a petition in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the Office shall either lift the temporary suspension or set the matter down for hearing at a time and place to be designated by the Office, or both. After opportunity for hearing, the Office may censure the petitioner or may suspend the petitioner from appearing or practicing before the Office temporarily or permanently. In every case in which the temporary suspension has not been lifted, the hearing and any other action taken pursuant to this paragraph (c)(4) shall be expedited by the Office in order to ensure the petitioner's right to address the allegations against him.

(5) In any hearing held on a petition filed in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section, a showing that the petitioner has been enjoined or has been found to have committed, caused or aided or abetted violations as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, without more, may be a basis for suspension or debarment; that showing having been made, the burden shall then be on the petitioner to show why he should not be censured or be temporarily or permanently suspended or debarred. A petitioner will not be permitted to contest any findings against him or any admissions made by him in the judicial or administrative proceedings upon which the proposed censure, suspension or debarment is based. A petitioner who has consented to the entry of a permanent injunction or order as described in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, without admitting the facts set forth in the complaint, shall nevertheless be presumed for all pur-

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poses under this section to have been enjoined or ordered by reason of the misconduct alleged in the complaint.

§513.5 Reinstatement.

(a) Any person who is suspended from practicing before the Office under paragraph (a) or (c) of §513.4 of this part may file an application for reinstatement at any time. Denial of the privilege of practicing before the Office shall continue unless and until the applicant has been reinstated by order of the Office for good cause shown.

(b) Any person suspended under paragraph (b) of §513.4 shall be reinstated by the Office, upon appropriate application, if all of the grounds for application of the provisions of paragraph (b) of §513.4 subsequently are removed by a reversal of the conviction or termination of the suspension, disbarment or revocation. An application for reinstatement on any other grounds by any person suspended under paragraph (b) of §513.4 may be filed at any time. Such application shall state with particularity the relief desired and the grounds therefor and shall include supporting evidence, when available. The applicant shall be accorded an opportunity for an informal hearing in the matter, unless the applicant has waived a hearing in the application and, instead, has elected to have the matter determined on the basis of written submissions. Such hearing shall utilize the procedures established in §508.3 and paragraph (a) of §508.7 of this chapter. However, such suspension shall continue unless and until the applicant has been reinstated by order of the Office for good cause shown.

[54 FR 49459, Nov. 30, 1989, as amended at 56 FR 38318, Aug. 12, 1991]

§513.6 Duty to file information concerning adverse judicial or administrative action.

Any person appearing or practicing before the Office who has been or is the subject of a conviction, suspension, debarment, license revocation, injunction or other finding of the kind described in §513.4 (b) or (c) of this part in an action not instituted by the Office shall promptly file a copy of the relevant order, judgment or decree with the Secretary to the Office together with any

related opinion or statement of the agency or tribunal involved. Any person who fails to so file a copy of the order, judgment or decree within 30 days after the later of June 15, 1984, the entry of the order, judgment or decree, or the date such person initiates practice before the Office, for that reason alone may be disqualified from practicing before the Office until such time as the appropriate filing shall be made, but neither the filing of these documents nor the failure of a person to file them shall in any way impair the operation of any other provision of this part.

§513.7 Proceeding under this part.

(a) All hearings required or permitted to be held under paragraphs (a) and (c) of §513.4 of this part shall be held before a presiding officer utilizing the procedures established in the rules of practice and procedure in adjudicatory proceedings under part 509 of this chapter.

(b) All hearings held under this part shall be closed to the public unless the Office on its own motion or upon the request of a party otherwise directs.

(c) Any proceeding brought under any section of this part 513 shall not preclude a proceeding under any other section of this part or any other part of the Office's regulations.

§513.8 Removal, suspension, or debarment of independent public accountants and accounting firms performing audit services.

(a) *Scope.* This subpart, which implements section 36(g)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDIA) (12 U.S.C. 1831m(g)(4)), provides rules and procedures for the removal, suspension, or debarment of independent public accountants and their accounting firms from performing independent audit and attestation services required by section 36 of the FDIA (12 U.S.C. 1831m) for insured savings associations and savings and loan holding companies.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following terms have the meaning given below unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) *Accounting firm.* The term *accounting firm* means a corporation, propri-

etorship, partnership, or other business firm providing audit services.

(2) *Audit services.* The term *audit services* means any service required to be performed by an independent public accountant by section 36 of the FDIA Act and 12 CFR part 363, including attestation services. Audit services include any service performed with respect to a savings and loan holding company of a savings association that is used to satisfy requirements imposed by section 36 or part 363 on that savings association.

(3) *Independent public accountant.* The term *independent public accountant* means any individual who performs or participates in providing audit services.

(c) *Removal, suspension, or debarment of independent public accountants.* The Office may remove, suspend, or debar an independent public accountant from performing audit services for savings associations that are subject to section 36 of the FDIA if, after service of a notice of intention and opportunity for hearing in the matter, the Office finds that the independent public accountant:

(1) Lacks the requisite qualifications to perform audit services;

(2) Has knowingly or recklessly engaged in conduct that results in a violation of applicable professional standards, including those standards and conflicts of interest provisions applicable to independent public accountants through the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-204, 116 Stat. 745 (2002) (Sarbanes-Oxley Act), and developed by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(3) Has engaged in negligent conduct in the form of: (i) A single instance of highly unreasonable conduct that results in a violation of applicable professional standards in circumstances in which an independent public accountant knows, or should know, that heightened scrutiny is warranted; or

(ii) Repeated instances of unreasonable conduct, each resulting in a violation of applicable professional standards, that indicate a lack of competence to perform audit services;

(4) Has knowingly or recklessly given false or misleading information or