

before OFHEO in a representational capacity either in an adjudicatory proceeding under this part or in any other matters connected with presentations to OFHEO relating to a client's or other principal's rights, privileges, or liabilities. This representation includes, but is not limited to, the practice of attorneys and accountants. Employees of OFHEO are not subject to disciplinary proceedings under this subpart.

#### § 1780.71 Definitions.

*Practice before OFHEO* for the purposes of this subpart, includes, but is not limited to, transacting any business with OFHEO as counsel, representative or agent for any other person, unless the Director orders otherwise. Practice before OFHEO also includes the preparation of any statement, opinion, or other paper by a counsel, representative or agent that is filed with OFHEO in any certification, notification, application, report, or other document, with the consent of such counsel, representative or agent. Practice before OFHEO does not include work prepared for an Enterprise solely at the request of the Enterprise for use in the ordinary course of its business.

#### § 1780.72 Appearance and practice in adjudicatory proceedings.

(a) *Appearance before OFHEO or a presiding officer*—(1) *By attorneys*. A party may be represented by an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia and who is not currently suspended or disbarred from practice before OFHEO.

(2) *By nonattorneys*. An individual may appear on his own behalf. A member of a partnership may represent the partnership and a duly authorized officer, director, employee, or other agent of any corporation or other entity not specifically listed herein may represent such corporation or other entity; provided that such officer, director, employee, or other agent is not currently suspended or disbarred from practice before OFHEO. A duly authorized officer or employee of any Government

unit, agency, or authority may represent that unit, agency, or authority.

(b) *Notice of appearance*. Any person appearing in a representative capacity on behalf of a party, including OFHEO, shall execute and file a notice of appearance with the presiding officer at or before the time such person submits papers or otherwise appears on behalf of a party in the adjudicatory proceeding. Such notice of appearance shall include a written declaration that the individual is currently qualified as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section and is authorized to represent the particular party. By filing a notice of appearance on behalf of a party in an adjudicatory proceeding, the representative thereby agrees and represents that he is authorized to accept service on behalf of the represented party and that, in the event of withdrawal from representation, he or she will, if required by the presiding officer, continue to accept service until a new representative has filed a notice of appearance or until the represented party indicates that he or she will proceed on a pro se basis. Unless the representative filing the notice is an attorney, the notice of appearance shall also be executed by the person represented or, if the person is not an individual, by the chief executive officer, or duly authorized officer of that person.

#### § 1780.73 Conflicts of interest.

(a) *Conflict of interest in representation*. No representative shall represent another person in an adjudicatory proceeding if it reasonably appears that such representation may be limited materially by that representative's responsibilities to a third person or by that representative's own interests. The presiding officer may take corrective measures at any stage of a proceeding to cure a conflict of interest in representation, including the issuance of an order limiting the scope of representation or disqualifying an individual from appearing in a representative capacity for the duration of the proceeding.

(b) *Certification and waiver*. If any person appearing as counsel or other representative represents two or more parties to an adjudicatory proceeding or

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also represents a nonparty on a matter relevant to an issue in the proceeding, that representative must certify in writing at the time of filing the notice of appearance required by § 1780.72—

(1) That the representative has personally and fully discussed the possibility of conflicts of interest with each such party and nonparty;

(2) That each such party and nonparty waives any right it might otherwise have had to assert any known conflicts of interest or to assert any non-material conflicts of interest during the course of the proceeding.

### § 1780.74 Sanctions.

(a) *General rule.* Appropriate sanctions may be imposed during the course of any proceeding when any party or representative of record has acted or failed to act in a manner required by applicable statute, regulation, or order, and that act or failure to act—

(1) Constitutes contemptuous conduct. Contemptuous conduct includes dilatory, obstructionist, egregious, contumacious, unethical, or other improper conduct at any phase of any adjudicatory proceeding;

(2) Has caused some other party material and substantive injury, including, but not limited to, incurring expenses including attorney's fees or experiencing prejudicial delay;

(3) Is a clear and unexcused violation of an applicable statute, regulation, or order; or

(4) Has delayed the proceeding unduly.

(b) *Sanctions.* Sanctions that may be imposed include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following:

(1) Issuing an order against a party;

(2) Rejecting or striking any testimony or documentary evidence offered, or other papers filed, by the party;

(3) Precluding the party from contesting specific issues or findings;

(4) Precluding the party from offering certain evidence or from challenging or contesting certain evidence offered by another party;

(5) Precluding the party from making a late filing or conditioning a late filing on any terms that are just;

(6) Assessing reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by

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any other party as a result of the improper action or failure to act.

(c) *Procedure for imposition of sanctions.* (1) The presiding officer, on the motion of any party, or on his own motion, and after such notice and responses as may be directed by the presiding officer, may impose any sanction authorized by this section. The presiding officer shall submit to the Director for final ruling any sanction that would result in a final order that terminates the case on the merits or is otherwise dispositive of the case.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, no sanction authorized by this section, other than refusing to accept late papers, shall be imposed without prior notice to all parties and an opportunity for any representative or party against whom sanctions would be imposed to be heard. The presiding officer shall determine and direct the appropriate notice and form for such opportunity to be heard. The opportunity to be heard may be limited to an opportunity to respond verbally immediately after the act or inaction in question is noted by the presiding officer.

(3) For purposes of interlocutory review, motions for the imposition of sanctions by any party and the imposition of sanctions shall be treated the same as motions for any other ruling by the presiding officer.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude the presiding officer or the Director from taking any other action or imposing any other restriction or sanction authorized by any applicable statute or regulation.

(d) *Sanctions for contemptuous conduct.* If, during the course of any proceeding, a presiding officer finds any representative or any individual representing himself to have engaged in contemptuous conduct, the presiding officer may summarily suspend that individual from participating in that or any related proceeding or impose any other appropriate sanction.

### § 1780.75 Censure, suspension, disbarment and reinstatement.

(a) *Discretionary censure, suspension and disbarment.* (1) The Director may censure any individual who practices or attempts to practice before OFHEO