

manner, and not to discuss it with any person involved in the matter; and

(3) Upon the basis of such affidavits, the Secretary determines that the appearance or participation by the partner or associate would not involve any actual conflict of interest or impropriety thereof.

§ 1720.135 Standards of practice.

(a) Attorneys shall conform to the standards of professional and ethical conduct required by practitioners in the courts of the United States and by the bars of which the attorneys are members.

(b) The privilege of appearing or practicing may be denied, temporarily or permanently, to any person who is found after notice and opportunity for hearing which at the person's request or in the discretion of the Secretary may be private, and for presentation of oral argument in the matter:

(1) Not to possess the requisite qualifications to represent others, or

(2) To be lacking in character or integrity, or

(3) To have engaged in unethical or improper professional conduct.

(c) Contemptuous conduct at any hearing shall be grounds for summary exclusion from said hearing for the duration of the hearing.

§ 1720.140 Administrative law judge, powers and duties.

(a) Hearings in adjudicative proceedings shall be presided over by a duly qualified administrative law judge who shall be designated by the Secretary in a notice to the parties in the proceeding.

(b) Administrative law judges shall have the duty to conduct fair and impartial hearings, to take all necessary action to avoid delay in the disposition of proceedings and to maintain order. They shall have all powers necessary to those ends including all powers granted under 5 U.S.C. 556(c), and also power including but not limited to the following:

(1) To administer oaths and affirmations.

(2) To issue subpoenas and orders requiring access.

(3) To take or to cause depositions to be taken.

(4) To rule upon offers of proof and receive evidence.

(5) To regulate the course of the hearings and the conduct of the parties and their counsel.

(6) To hold conferences for simplification and clarification of the issues or any other purpose.

(7) To consider and rule upon as justice may require, all procedural and other motions appropriate in an adjudicative proceeding, including motions to open defaults.

(8) To make and file decisions.

(9) To certify question to a Departmental appeals officer.

(10) To take any action authorized by the rules in this part or other appropriate action.

§ 1720.145 Disqualification of administrative law judge.

(a) When an administrative law judge feels disqualified from presiding in a particular proceeding, the administrative law judge shall withdraw therefrom by notice on the record and shall notify the Secretary of such withdrawal.

(b) Whenever any party believes that the administrative law judge should be disqualified from presiding, or continuing to preside in a particular proceeding, such party may file with the administrative law judge a motion that the administrative law judge be disqualified and removed. Such motion shall be supported by affidavits setting forth the alleged grounds for disqualification. If the administrative law judge does not agree to disqualification, the hearing shall proceed, and the question of fair hearing and due process may be raised on appeal.

§ 1720.150 Failure to comply with administrative law judge's directions.

Any party who refuses or fails to comply with a lawfully issued order or direction of an administrative law judge may be considered to be in contempt of the Secretary. The circumstances of any such neglect, refusal or failure, together with a recommendation for appropriate action, shall be promptly certified by the administrative law judge to the Secretary who may make such orders in