

§515.706

31 CFR Ch. V (7–1–01 Edition)

(2) *Closing time.* The time for filing any document expires at 5:00 p.m. local Washington, DC time on the last day when such filing may be made.

§515.706 Hearing.

(a) *Notice of hearing.* (1) Any respondent requesting a hearing shall receive notice of the time and place of the hearing at the service address provided pursuant to §515.703(b)(1)(iii). Requests to change the time and place of a hearing may be submitted to the Administrative Law Judge, who may modify the original notice or subsequently set hearing dates. All requests for a change in the time or place of a hearing must be received in the Administrative Law Judge's chambers and served upon the parties no later than 15 working days before the scheduled hearing date.

(2) The hearing shall be conducted in a manner consistent with 5 U.S.C. 554–557, pursuant to section 1710(c) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 6001–6010) and section 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 16).

(b) *Powers.* The Administrative Law Judge shall have all powers necessary to conduct the hearing, consistent with 5 U.S.C. 554–557, including the following powers:

(1) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) To require production of records or any information relative to any act or transaction subject to this part, including the imposition of sanctions available under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(b)(2) (Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(b)(2), 28 U.S.C.) for a party's failure to comply with discovery requests;

(3) To receive relevant and material evidence and to rule upon the admission of evidence and offers of proof;

(4) To take or cause depositions to be taken as authorized by this part;

(5) To regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of the parties and their counsel;

(6) To hold scheduling or prehearing conferences as deemed necessary;

(7) To consider and rule upon all procedural and other motions appropriate in an adjudicatory proceeding, provided that only the Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall have the power to grant any motion to dismiss the proceeding or to decide any other

motion that results in a final determination of the merits of the proceeding;

(8) To prepare and present to the Secretary or to the Secretary's designee a recommended decision as provided in §§515.711(d) and 515.716(e);

(9) To recuse himself on motion made by a party or on the Administrative Law Judge's own motion;

(10) To establish time, place, and manner limitations on the attendance of the public and the media for any public hearing;

(11) To perform all necessary or appropriate measures to discharge the duties of an Administrative Law Judge; and

(12) To set fees and expenses for witnesses, including expert witnesses.

(c) *Appearance and practice in a civil penalty hearing*—(1) *Appearance before an Administrative Law Judge by counsel.* Any member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any state, commonwealth, possession, or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia may represent respondents upon written notice to the Administrative Law Judge in a civil penalty hearing.

(2) *Appearance before an Administrative Law Judge by a nonlawyer.* A respondent may appear on his own behalf; a duly authorized member of a partnership may represent the partnership; a duly authorized officer, director, or employee of any corporation may represent that corporation upon written notice to the Administrative Law Judge in a civil penalty hearing.

(3) *Office of Foreign Assets Control representation.* The Office of Foreign Assets Control shall be represented by the Office of General Counsel of the United States Department of the Treasury.

(d) *Conflicts of interest*—(1) *Conflict of interest in representation.* No individual shall appear as counsel for a party in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart if it reasonably appears that such representation may be materially limited by that counsel's responsibilities to a third person, or by counsel's own interests.

(2) *Corrective measures.* The Administrative Law Judge 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.

(e) *Ex parte communications*—(1) *Definition*. The term *ex parte communication* means any material oral or written communication not on the public record concerning the merits of an adjudicatory proceeding with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given, on any material matter or proceeding covered by these regulations that takes place between:

(i) A party to the proceeding, a party's counsel, or any other individual; and

(ii) The Administrative Law Judge handling that proceeding, or the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee.

(2) *Exceptions*. (i) A request to learn the status of the proceeding does not constitute an *ex parte communication*; and

(ii) Settlement inquiries and discussions do not constitute *ex parte communications*.

(3) *Prohibition on ex parte communications*. From the time a respondent requests a hearing until the date that the Secretary or the Secretary's designee issues a final decision, no party, interested person, or counsel therefor shall knowingly make or cause to be made an *ex parte communication*. The Administrative Law Judge, the Secretary, and the Secretary's designee shall not knowingly make or cause to be made to a party, or to any interested person or counsel therefor, any *ex parte communication*.

(4) *Procedure upon occurrence of ex parte communication*. If an *ex parte communication* is received by the Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge shall cause all such written communication (or, if the communication is oral, a memorandum stating the substance of the communication) to be placed on the record of the proceeding and served on all parties. All parties to the proceeding shall have an opportunity, within 10 calendar days of the receipt of service of the notice or of receipt of a memorandum of the *ex parte communication*,

to file responses thereto and to recommend any sanctions, in accordance with paragraph (e)(5) of this section, appropriate under the circumstances, or may file an interlocutory appeal with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee.

(5) *Sanctions*. Any party to the proceeding, a party's counsel, or any other individual, who makes a prohibited *ex parte communication*, or who encourages or solicits another to make any such communication, may be subject to any appropriate sanction or sanctions imposed by the Administrative Law Judge for good cause shown, or that may be imposed upon interlocutory appeal taken to the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, including, but not limited to, exclusion from the hearing and an adverse ruling on the issue which is the subject of the prohibited communication.

(f) *Time limits*. Except as provided elsewhere in this subpart, the Administrative Law Judge shall establish all time limits for filings with regard to hearings conducted pursuant to this subpart, except for decisions on interlocutory appeals filed with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee.

(g) *Failure to appear*. The unexcused failure of a respondent to appear in person at a hearing or to have duly authorized counsel appear in respondent's place constitutes a waiver of the respondent's right to a hearing and is deemed an admission of the violation alleged. Without further proceedings or notice to the respondent, the Administrative Law Judge shall enter a finding that the right to a hearing was waived, and the case shall be determined pursuant to § 515.704.

§ 515.707 Interlocutory appeal.

(a) *Interlocutory appeals*. When exceptions, requests for extensions, or motions, including motions for summary disposition, are denied by the Administrative Law Judge, interlocutory appeals may be taken to the Secretary or to the Secretary's designee for a decision.

(b) *Filing deadline*. Interlocutory appeals must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the matter being appealed has been decided in writing by the Administrative Law Judge. Parties