



Issue Date: 26 March 2004

Case No. 2004-MIS-3

In the Matter of the disqualification of

JOSEPH W. THOMAS, Esquire

In re Thomas v. Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring, 1998-LHC-2301.

ORDER DENYING AUTHORITY TO APPEAR

On February 25, 2004, the Louisiana Supreme Court issued a Per Curiam decision suspending Joseph W. Thomas from the practice of law for three years. *In Re Joseph W. Thomas*, No. 03-B-2738 (Tenn. Feb. 25, 2004). The Louisiana Supreme Court's decision is based in part on conduct that occurred before a U.S. Department of Labor, administrative law judge in Case No. 1998-LHC-2301.

On March 4, 2004, Mr. Thomas was ordered to show cause why he should not be disqualified pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 18.34(g)(3) from representing clients before the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges unless and until he is reinstated as an attorney by the State of Louisiana. Mr. Thomas was warned that failure to respond timely to the Order to Show Cause or failure to establish legally sufficient grounds for not imposing a disqualification under 29 C.F.R. § 18.34(g)(3), would result in an order of disqualification issuing forthwith. Mr. Thomas did not respond to the order.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that Joseph W. Thomas is hereby **DENIED THE AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT CLIENTS** before the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges unless and until he is reinstated as an attorney by the State of Louisiana.

A

JOHN M. VITTON
Chief Administrative Law Judge