

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2001-045

Date: AUG 19 2002

In re: SHARON BARTU, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF SERVICE: Javier Balasquide, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

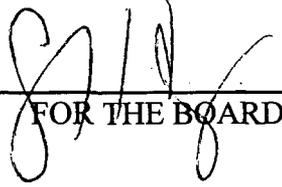
PER CURIAM. On March 12, 2001, the Supreme Court of Washington suspended the respondent from the practice of law in that state for a period of 6 months, subject to certain conditions.

Consequently, on June 1, 2001, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On June 7, 2001, the Immigration and Naturalization Service asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. Therefore, on June 15, 2001, we suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the Service pending final disposition of this proceeding.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 3.105(c)(1). The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the Notice constitutes an admission of the allegations therein, and the respondent is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 3.105(d)(1), (2).

The Notice recommends that the respondent be suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts, for a period of six months. The Service asks that we extend that discipline to practice before it as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the recommendation contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that recommendation. 8 C.F.R. § 3.105(d)(2). Since the recommendation is appropriate in light of the sanctions imposed by the the Supreme Court of Washington, we will honor that recommendation. Accordingly, we hereby suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the Service for a period of six months. As the respondent is currently under our June 15, 2001, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date. The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against her.

As the six month suspension period has already expired, the respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Service. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 3.107(a). In order to be reinstated, the respondent must demonstrate that she meets the definition of an attorney or representative, as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 1.1(f) and (j). *Id.* Therefore, the respondent must show that she has been reinstated to the State Bar of Washington before she may be reinstated by the Board. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1.1(f) (stating that term "attorney" does not include any individual under order suspending him from the practice of law).



FOR THE BOARD