

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Board of Immigration Appeals

MATTER OF:

Rodolfo SOLIS ZEPEDA, D2024-0194

Respondent

FILED

SEP 27 2024

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Pro se

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Toinette M. Mitchell, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul A. Rodrigues, Disciplinary Counsel

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
Notice of Intent to Discipline Before the Board of Immigration Appeals

Before: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge; Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge; Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

LIEBOWITZ, Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), effective August 9, 2024.

On March 12, 2024, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, the respondent plead guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and to Make False Statements, in violate of 18 U.S.C. § 371, 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a). On May 29, 2024, the respondent was sentenced to probation for a term of five years and was ordered to surrender his law license no later than May 30, 2024. On July 29, 2024, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Disciplinary Counsel for DHS jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS due to his conviction for this offense, which qualifies as a serious crime as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h). We granted the petition on August 9, 2024.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(1). The respondent's failure to file a response within the time prescribed in the Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline constitutes an admission of the allegations therein, and the respondent is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(1)-(2).

The Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective August 9,

2024. Because the respondent did not file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent's conviction for a serious crime. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. Further, as the respondent remains suspended under our August 9, 2024, order of immediate suspension, his disbarment will be effective as of that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective August 9, 2024.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent must maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent must notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

FURTHER ORDER: The contents of the order shall be made available to the public, including at the Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of DHS.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.