

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Wendell C. DAWSON, D2024-0032

Respondent

FILED

APR 12 2024

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

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

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

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

Opinion by Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge

CREPPY, Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), for a period of 3 months, effective February 29, 2024.

On January 26, 2024, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Tennessee for a period of three years, with three months to be served as an active suspension, and the remainder to be served on probation with conditions. On February 15, 2024, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, as well as a Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension, based upon the respondent's suspension in Tennessee. We granted the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension on February 29, 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 suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of 3 months, effective as of the date of the Board's immediate suspension order. 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 diverge from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent's 3-month suspension from the practice of law in Tennessee. We will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of 3 months, effective February 29, 2024.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of 3 months, effective February 29, 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.