

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Steven TANIJO, D2024-0263

Respondent

FILED

DEC 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; Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge

MALPHRUS, Deputy Chief 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 November 14, 2024.

On September 5, 2024, the Supreme Court of Washington issued an order striking cause hearing for petition for immediate suspension in the respondent's disciplinary proceedings in Washington. In the order, the Supreme Court of Washington states that, on August 30, 2024, the respondent resigned his membership in the Washington State Bar Association in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. On October 21, 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. We granted the petition on November 14, 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. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105. 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).

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. Because the respondent has failed to 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 considering the respondent's resignation in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings in Washington. 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. The respondent's disbarment will be effective as of November 14, 2024, the date of our immediate suspension order.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective November 14, 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.