

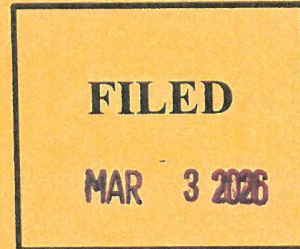
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Robert Charles NEELEY, JR., D2025-0330

Respondent



ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Catherine M. O'Connell, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Amy S. Paulick, Disciplinary Counsel

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

Before: Malphrus, Chief Appellate Immigration Judge; Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge;
Mullane, Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Mullane, Appellate Immigration Judge

MULLANE, Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be suspended from the practice of law before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") for 18 months, effective January 8, 2026.

On October 15, 2025, the Circuit Court for the City of Virginia Beach issued a memorandum order accepting the Agreed Disposition, endorsed by the respondent and the Virginia State Bar, suspending the respondent from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for a period of 18 months, effective October 16, 2025. On December 3, 2025, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") and the Disciplinary Counsel for DHS filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline ("NID"), as well as a Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension, based upon the respondent's suspension in Virginia. We granted the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension on January 8, 2026.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the NID 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 NID 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 NID proposes that the respondent be suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS for 18 months. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the NID 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 suspension from the practice of law in Virginia. 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 18 months. The respondent's suspension will be effective as of January 8, 2026, the date of our immediate suspension order.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from the practice of law before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS for 18 months, effective January 8, 2026.

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.