

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2017-0279

Date: **MAY 29 2018**

In re: Matthew E. HULT a.k.a. Matthew Edgar Hult, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

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

The respondent will be indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board"), the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS").

On June 16, 2017, the Supreme Court of Kansas temporarily suspended the respondent from the practice of law in that state, until pending disciplinary proceedings against him were resolved, or until further order of the court. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR") petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts on June 30, 2017, and stated that the respondent remained temporarily suspended and ineligible to practice law in Kansas, as of the date of its filing. The DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency.

We granted the petition for immediate suspension on August 1, 2017. The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline on April 13, 2018. Evidence is presented that the respondent was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Kansas on February 16, 2018, effective immediately. The suspension was based on the respondent's misconduct concerning immigration clients.

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. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105. The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the 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 Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The DHS Disciplinary Counsel asks the Board to extend that discipline to practice before that agency as well.

Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the 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 fact that the respondent was indefinitely suspended

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from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Kansas on February 16, 2018. Further, as the respondent is currently under our August 1, 2017, order of suspension, we will deem his suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby indefinitely suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The suspension is deemed to have commenced on August 1, 2017.

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 the DHS.

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



FOR THE BOARD