

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2018-0242

Date: NOV 01 2018

In re: Bilal Ahmed KHALEEQ, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul Rodrigues, Acting Disciplinary Counsel

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

On July 20, 2018, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, issued a judgment in a criminal case accepting the respondent's guilty plea and convicting him of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 (8 U.S.C. § 1325(c)). On September 4, 2018, the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before that agency. The Acting Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. We granted the petition on September 11, 2018. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.103(a)(1), (2), and (4) (2017) (discussing grounds for immediate suspension).

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. § 1003.105.¹ 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 disbarred from practicing before the DHS. The Acting Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks us to extend that discipline to practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us 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 respondent's conviction for conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, a serious crime as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h). 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 the DHS. Further, as the respondent

¹ The respondent did file a hand-written note stating that he resigns from practicing before the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

is currently under our September 11, 2018, order of suspension, we will deem his disbarment to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment is deemed to have commenced on September 11, 2018.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent must maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent must notify the Board of Immigration Appeals 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 of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.



FOR THE BOARD