

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2019-0016

Date:

MAR 20 2019

In re: Susanna DVORTSIN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul A. Rodrigues
Disciplinary Counsel

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

The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board"), the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") for 115 days.

On January 3, 2019, the Supreme Court of South Dakota suspended the respondent from the practice of law in South Dakota for 115 days, effective February 3, 2019. The basis for the suspension involved misconduct concerning an immigration matter. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts on February 5, 2019, and stated that the respondent remains suspended from the practice of law in South Dakota, as of the date of its filing.

The Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. We granted the petition on March 5, 2019.

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. See 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 suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts for 115 days. The DHS 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 discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of South Dakota. Further, as the respondent is currently under our March 5, 2019, order of suspension, we will deem her suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for 115 days. The suspension is deemed to have commenced on March 5, 2019.

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 her.

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