

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2021-0045

Date: OCT 08 2021

In re: Cynthia Nalleli ALANIS, 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 disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), effective May 18, 2021.

On February 3, 2021, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, adjudicated the respondent guilty, on the basis of her guilty plea, of making a false/fraudulent statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001. This offense is a “serious crime” as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h) both because it is a felony and because it involves dishonesty. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h) (defining “serious crime”). On March 22, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS jointly petitioned for the respondent’s immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. We granted the petition on May 18, 2021.

On June 28, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsels for EOIR and the DHS filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline charging that the respondent is subject to summary discipline because she resigned from the practice of law in Texas while disciplinary proceedings were pending. In support of this charge, the Disciplinary Counsels submitted a certified copy of the Supreme Court of Texas’ order accepting the respondent’s resignation in lieu of disciplinary action (Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, Attachment 1).

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 disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. 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 resignation from the practice of law in Texas in lieu of disciplinary action. 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 is currently suspended under our May 18, 2021, order of suspension, we will deem her 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, effective May 18, 2021.

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.



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FOR THE BOARD