

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

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

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MATTER OF:

Dounnisei Kuo GBALAZEH, D2021-0135

Respondent

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**FILED**  
OCT 13 2021

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Pro se

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

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

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

Before: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge;  
Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge; Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge Malphrus

MALPHRUS, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge

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

On May 13, 2014, the Board granted the petition filed by the Disciplinary Counsels for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and DHS to immediately suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, pending final disposition of the practitioner disciplinary proceedings bearing the disciplinary number D2013-122. On June 10, 2014, the Board issued a final order of discipline, ordering the respondent indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, following the respondent's failure to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline. The respondent remains suspended pursuant to this order.

On November 24, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana issued a final order disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in Louisiana. On July 7, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR and the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, charging that the respondent, having been subject to a final order of disbarment, is subject to summary discipline. In support of this charge, the Disciplinary Counsels submitted a certified copy of the Louisiana Supreme Court's order (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)-(2).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practice before the Board, 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 disbarment from the practice of law in Louisiana. We will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent disbarred from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. Further, as the respondent is currently indefinitely suspended pursuant to the Board's orders dated May 13, 2014, and June 10, 2014, we deem the respondent's disbarment to be effective immediately. *Id.*

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, effective immediately.

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.