

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Juan Carlos MERCADO, Jr., D2021-0228

Respondent

FILED

JAN 17 2022

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

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

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
Petition for Immediate Suspension Before the Board of Immigration Appeals

Before: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge;
Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge; Manuel, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge¹

Opinion by Appellate Immigration Judge Liebowitz

LIEBOWITZ, Appellate Immigration Judge

On October 14, 2021, the Supreme Court of Florida approved the respondent's stipulation to probable cause and conditional guilty plea for consent judgment and suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Florida for 6 months, effective November 13, 2021. On December 9, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The petition will be granted.² See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.103(a)(1) and (4) (discussing grounds for immediate suspension).

ORDER: The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies.

¹ Temporary Appellate Immigration Judges sit pursuant to appointment by the Attorney General. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(a)(4).

² Upon good cause shown, the Board of Immigration Appeals may set aside the order of immediate suspension when it appears in the interest of justice to do so. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order.

FURTHER ORDER: The contents of this notice shall be made available to the public, including at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.