

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2018-0069

Date: **MAY 22 2018**

In re: Keon Joong LEE, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul A. Rodrigues, Acting 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 6 months.

On March 1, 2018, the Supreme Court of California issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in that state for 2 years, but the court stayed the execution of the suspension and placed the respondent on probation for 2 years. The court suspended the respondent for the first 6 months of the probation and until certain conditions are met. On April 6, 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 (Acting Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) and the Immigration Courts. We granted the petition on May 8, 2018.¹ 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. 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 DHS for 6 months. The Acting Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks the Board to extend that discipline to practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board to adopt the proposed

¹ The Petition for Immediate Suspension was supported by documentation of the respondent's suspension in California, and the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS appeared to have been seeking the respondent's immediate suspension on the basis of this California suspension. The first sentence of the petition, however, stated that the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS was seeking respondent's immediate suspension because he "has been disbarred from the practice of law in the State of Georgia." In granting the petition, we deemed the reference to disbarment in Georgia a typographical error and presumed that the first sentence should have stated "has been suspended from the practice of law in the State of California."

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 suspension in California. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent suspended from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for 6 months. Further, as the respondent is currently under our May 8, 2018, order of suspension, we will deem his 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 6 months. The suspension is deemed to have commenced on May 8, 2018.

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 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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.



FOR THE BOARD