

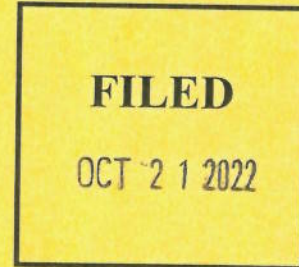
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Teodoro Torres LAGUATAN, D2022-0140

Respondent



ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Pro se

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

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Toinette M. Mitchell, Disciplinary Counsel

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

Before: Malphrus, Chief Appellate Immigration Judge, Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge,
Noferi, Temporary Immigration Judge¹

Opinion by Malphrus, Chief Appellate Immigration Judge

MALPHRUS, Chief Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) for a period of six months, effective August 29, 2022.

On June 1, 2022, the Supreme Court of California issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in California for a period of two years, with the execution of that period stayed. The order also placed the respondent on probation for two years subject to certain conditions, including suspension from the practice of law in California for the first six months of probation, effective July 1, 2022. On August 15, 2022, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline (“NID”), as well as a Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension, based upon the respondent’s suspension in California. We granted the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension on August 29, 2022.

On September 19, 2022, the respondent filed a “Response to Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension (“Response”),” which, stated, inter alia, that he was not contesting the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension. The respondent in his Response also stated: “No moral turpitude was

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

Involved.” To the extent that this statement can be construed as a denial of allegation #3 in the NID, the record supports the allegation in the NID that the State Bar Court of California found the respondent culpable of violating section 6106 of the California Business and Professions Code, which proscribes any act involving moral turpitude (*see* Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension, Attachment 2, pp. 13, 29-30; NID, p. 1).² The respondent in his Response has not otherwise requested a hearing, nor denied the remainder of the allegations in the NID. Because the respondent has not requested a hearing or made a prima facie showing that there is a material issue of fact in dispute regarding the basis for the instant disciplinary proceedings or with regard to one or more of the exceptions set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(b)(2)(i) through (iii), we will proceed with summary disciplinary proceedings. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.106(a)(1).

The NID proposed that the respondent be suspended from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of six months, effective as of the date of the Board’s immediate suspension order. The respondent has not contested the imposition of discipline or contested the sanction proposed in the NID. The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent’s suspension in California. We will therefore honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent suspended from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of six months, effective August 29, 2022. The following orders will be entered.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of six months, effective August 29, 2022.

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 DHS.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.

² Specifically, the State Bar Court of California found the respondent culpable as charged in Count Fifteen of the Notice of Disciplinary Charges based on his gross negligence related to a property sale.