

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Veronica REYES, D2022-0155

Respondent

FILED
NOV 09 2022

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 from a Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals

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

Opinion by Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge Noferi

NOFERI, Temporary 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 1 year and 1 day, effective October 6, 2022.

On August 26, 2022, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Colorado issued an order approving the revised stipulation to discipline and suspending the respondent from the practice of law in Colorado for 1 year and 1 day, effective September 30, 2022. On September 19, 2022, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review 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 DHS. We granted the petition on October 6, 2022.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Joint 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 prescribed in the Joint 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 Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS for 1 year

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

and 1 day. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Joint 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 Colorado. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS for 1 year and 1 day. Further, as the respondent currently is suspended under our October 6, 2022, order of suspension, her suspension will be effective as of that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS for 1 year and 1 day, effective October 6, 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 her.

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.