

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Betty BLANCO, D2023-0009

Respondent

FILED

MAR 09 2023

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: Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge, Brown, Temporary Appellate Immigration
Judge, Noferi, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge¹

Opinion by Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

LIEBOWITZ, Appellate Immigration judge

The respondent will be disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), effective February 13, 2023.

On September 23, 2021, the Supreme Court of Florida granted the respondent's unopposed petition for disciplinary revocation, effective October 23, 2021.² On January 19, 2023, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Disciplinary Counsel for 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 February 13, 2023.

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

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

² Disciplinary revocation in Florida is tantamount to disbarment. *Florida Bar v. Hale* 7362 So. 2d 515, 517 (Fla 2000).

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 disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. 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 disciplinary revocation in Florida. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. Further, as the respondent is currently suspended pursuant to our February 13, 2023, order of suspension, her disbarment will be effective as of that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective February 13, 2023.

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.