

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Jim MELO, D2022-0204

Respondent

FILED

MAR 13 2023

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 Appellate Immigration Judge¹

Opinion by Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

LIEBOWITZ, 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 five years, effective February 6, 2023.

On June 20, 2022, the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in North Carolina for five years, effective 30 days from service of the order on the respondent. On January 24, 2023, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") and the Disciplinary Counsel for DHS filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, as well as a Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension, based upon the respondent's suspension in North Carolina. We granted the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension on February 6, 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. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(1). The respondent's

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

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)-(2).

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 a period five years, effective as of the date of the Board's immediate suspension order. Because the respondent did not 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 North Carolina. We 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 a period of five years, effective February 6, 2023.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, for a period of five years, effective February 6, 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 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.