

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Ignatius Chukwuemeka UDEANI, D2023-0047

Respondent

FILED

APR 24 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 Noferi, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge

NOFERI, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals (“Board”), the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), effective immediately.

On September 3, 2020, the Board granted the Joint Petition for Immediate Suspension filed by the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) and the Disciplinary Counsel for DHS, based on the respondent’s indefinite suspension in Minnesota. On October 27, 2020, the Board issued an order indefinitely suspending the respondent from the practice before the Board, Immigration Courts and DHS, effective September 3, 2020 (Case No. D2020-0146). The respondent has not been reinstated to practice and remains suspended since that time.

On January 25, 2023, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued a final order disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in Minnesota, effective as of the date of the order. On March 6, 2023, Disciplinary Counsels for EOIR and DHS filed a Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline, claiming that the respondent is subject to summary discipline based on his disbarment in Minnesota. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(e), 1003.103(b), 1003.106(a).

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

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 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 disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective immediately. 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 disbarment in Minnesota. We will order the respondent disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective immediately.

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

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.