

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

MATTER OF:

Chuck Odifu EGBUNE, D2023-0136

Respondent

FILED

AUG 16 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: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge; Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge; Liebowitz, 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 3 years, effective July 5, 2023.

On June 9, 2023, the Supreme Court of Colorado suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Colorado for 3 years, effective immediately. On June 22, 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 July 5, 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 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 3 years. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed

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

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 considering 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 3 years. Further, as the respondent is currently suspended pursuant to our July 5, 2023, order of suspension, his 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 3 years, effective July 5, 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.