

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

File: D2015-052

Date: **MAY 04 2015**

In re: ISSAM A. ABBAS, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Rhonda Dent
Section Chief, Immigration Court Practice Section – East
Immigration Law and Practice Division
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Jeannette V. Dever, Legal Fellow
Immigration Law and Practice Division
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security (the “DHS”) for three years.

On January 21, 2015, the Attorney Discipline Board of the State of Michigan suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Michigan for three years, effective January 30, 2015, after the parties stipulated to a consent order of discipline. Consequently, on March 23, 2015, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent’s immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. The DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. We granted the petition for immediate suspension on April 15, 2015.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2013). The respondent’s failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the Notice 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 (2013).

The Notice proposes that the respondent be suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts for a period of three years. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2013).

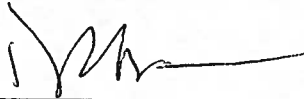
The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the fact that on January 21, 2015, the Attorney Discipline Board of the State of Michigan suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Michigan for three years, effective January 30, 2015, after the parties stipulated to a consent order of discipline. Because the respondent is currently under our April 15, 2015, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for three years.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107 (2013).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2) (2013).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M. ...', is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD