

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

File: D2014-168

Date: **NOV 10 2014**

In re: RICHARD CLAY MENDEZ, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Diane H. Kier
Associate Legal Advisor

The respondent will be indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").

On September 5, 2014, the Supreme Court of Iowa ordered the respondent to cease and desist from all legal practice in Iowa indefinitely with no possibility that the order will be lifted for a period of sixty days. Consequently, on September 17, 2014, 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 October 7, 2014.

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 he is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2013).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The DHS asks that the Board extend that discipline to practice before it as well. 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).

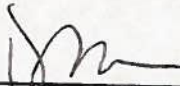
Since the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the fact that on September 5, 2014, the Supreme Court of Iowa ordered the respondent to cease and desist from all legal practice in Iowa indefinitely with no possibility that the order will be lifted for a period of sixty days, the Board will honor that proposal. As the respondent is currently under our October 7, 2014, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

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

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).



FOR THE BOARD