

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2003-221

Date: JAN 8 2004

In re: IMEVBORE MICHAEL OJO, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Eileen M. Connolly, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On November 12, 2003, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("OGC") instituted disciplinary proceedings against the respondent.¹ The OGC alleged that the respondent violated 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(f)(1), by making false statements about his qualifications. That is, while administratively suspended from the practice of law in Texas, the respondent filed many notices of appearance with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, in which he misrepresented his status as a member in good standing of the Texas bar.

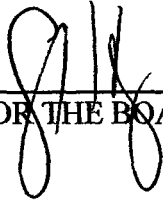
The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(c)(1). The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the Notice constitutes an admission of the allegations therein, and the respondent is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(1), (2).

The Notice recommends that the respondent be suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts, for a period of 30 days. The Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) asks that we extend that discipline to practice before it as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the recommendation contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that recommendation. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2). The recommendation is appropriate, and we will honor it. Accordingly, we hereby suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for a period of 30 days.

¹The OGC did not petition for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice pending final disposition of this proceeding, under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a).

The respondent is directed to promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies. The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order. Moreover, we direct that the contents of this notice be made available to the public, including at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

After the suspension period expires, the respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(a).



FOR THE BOARD