

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2001-065

Date: March 8, 2005

In re: JULIA A. SOININEN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

MOTION

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


ON BEHALF OF DHS: Javier Balasquide, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On or about May 25, 1999, the respondent entered a guilty plea to one count of theft (petit larceny), in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-96, in the General District Court, Fairfax County Virginia. The crime is a "serious crime" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 3.102(h). On September 9, 1999, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals issued an order suspending the respondent on an interim basis from the practice of law. During the effective period of her interim suspension, the respondent was alleged to have filed five separate notices of appearance with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, in which she misrepresented her status as a member in good standing of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Consequently, on June 12, 2001, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On June 18, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. Therefore, on July 6, 2001, we suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. An Immigration Judge issued a final order of discipline on November 20, 2001, suspending the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for a period of 1 year.

The respondent moves that we reinstate her to practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, who initiated these disciplinary proceedings, does not oppose the motion and notes that the respondent appears to meet the definition of attorney as provided in 8 C.F.R. § 1001.1(f). Given that the respondent's motion is unopposed, we find that the respondent should be and hereby is reinstated to practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, as of the date of this order. Because the respondent has been reinstated, public notices regarding the respondent's suspension by the Board should be withdrawn. If the respondent wishes to represent a party before the Board, she must file a Notice of Appearance (Form EOIR-27), including any case in which she was formerly counsel, prior to her suspension.



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FOR THE BOARD