

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

File: D2013-040

Date:

In re: RONALD EARL BEHLING, ATTORNEY

JAN 07 2014

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 suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS"), for five years.

On February 20, 2013, the State Bar Court of California issued an order placing the respondent in inactive status pending the final outcome of his disciplinary proceedings. Consequently, on April 8, 2013, 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.

Therefore, on April 23, 2013, the Board suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

On June 6, 2013, the Supreme Court of California disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in California, and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review thereafter filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline.

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 five years, observing that the respondent may not apply for reinstatement in California for five years. 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).

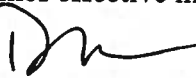
Since the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the respondent being disbarred in California, the Board will honor that proposal. As the respondent is currently under our April 23, 2013, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

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



FOR THE BOARD