

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2003-119

Date: JUL 16 2003

In re: PAUL HOWARD CURTIS, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

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

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

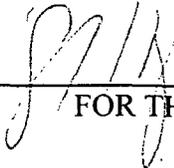
ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On March 7, 2003, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law for three years, stayed, with an actual suspension of six months, and probation for four years, by the Supreme Court of California. The respondent admitted that he "intentionally, recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform legal services with competence" with regard to two clients, in violation of the California Rules of Professional Conduct. Moreover, the respondent admitted that he violated provisions of the California Business and Professions Code, concerning the two clients.

Consequently, on June 16, 2003, the Office of General 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. On June 25, 2003, 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.

The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended, absent a showing of good cause, from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a).¹

Accordingly, 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.



FOR THE BOARD

¹Regulations relating to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, found in title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, were reorganized on February 28, 2003, due to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. *See* 68 FR 9824 (February 28, 2003). There was no substantive changes made to the regulations. *Id.* at 9825. Until February 28, 2003, 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a) was found at 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a).