

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2005-042

Date: March 28, 2005

In re: GRICEL S. ECHAVARRIA, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Rachel A. McCarthy, Ethics Counsel

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Bar Counsel

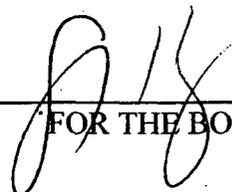
ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On August 20, 2003, the respondent pled guilty in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin to conspiracy to produce and transfer false identification documents, counterfeit resident alien cards, and counterfeit social security cards, in violation of federal law, and was sentenced to a period of 27 months incarceration. The crime is a "serious crime" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h). On May 12, 2004, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law for 2 years, retroactive to November 17, 2003, by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Consequently, on March 11, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service), initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. On March 16, 2005, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and immigration courts.

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), 1292.3(c).

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.

  
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FOR THE BOARD