

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2000-124

Date: SEP 18 2001

In re: PAUL IRA FREEDMAN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

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

ON BEHALF OF SERVICE: Javier Balasquide, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. The respondent was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1983 and in the State of New York in 1985.

On or about March 9, 1995, the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department entered an order accepting the respondent's resignation from the New York state bar, noting that forty complaints of professional misconduct had been lodged against the respondent in a period of less than three years.

Then, on or about September 27, 1999, the respondent pled guilty before the United States District Court, Southern District of New York of conspiring to file false asylum applications on behalf of several clients and was thereafter convicted by that court of a Class E felony. Based on this conviction, the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts ordered the respondent's immediate temporary suspension from the practice of law in that state on December 27, 1999.¹

Consequently, on August 29, 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 September 4, 2001, 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 Service pending final disposition of this proceeding. See 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a).

¹ We do not know from the record if the respondent remains suspended in Massachusetts, though we infer from the petition that the respondent has not been permitted to return to practice there. Nonetheless, given the respondent's criminal conviction and the respondent's resignation from the New York state bar, the respondent's current bar standing in Massachusetts does not affect the issuance of this order. See 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a)(2).

Accordingly, the respondent is directed to promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the Service 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 Service.

Lauren R. Mathon

FOR THE BOARD