

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2000-112

Date: MAY 6 2002

In re: ROBERT EDWIN PORGES, 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

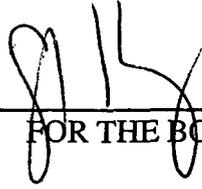
ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On February 11, 2002, the respondent pled guilty to (1) conspiracy to engage in racketeering activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d); (2) engaging in a pattern of racketeering activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1546(a); and (3) conspiracy to commit tax fraud in violation of various sections of Title 26 of the United States code, in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. See Transcript of February 11, 2002, hearing, at 47-58, 65-66. The respondent admitted that he "agreed with others employed by and associated with the Porges Law Firm to conduct and participate in the conduct of the affairs of the Porges Law Firm racketeering enterprise through a pattern of activity consisting of multiple acts involving the preparation and submission of fraudulent documents relating to claims for political asylum" (Tr. at 47). Respondent also admitted that "these applications contained false statements of fact, including false stories of persecution that were set forth as the basis for asylum claims" and that he "was aware that many of the stories that were submitted by the aliens were either false, inaccurate, or exaggerations." *Id.* at 48. Respondent further admitted that he "closed [his] eyes as to what [he] knew was the deliberate creation of stories by employees of the Porges Law Firm and the aliens" with a purpose "to further the scheme of the asylum fraud." *Id.* at 49. The crimes are felonies and therefore are "serious crimes" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 3.102(h).

Consequently, on April 6, 2002, 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 April 16, 2002, 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).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. L. G.', is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD