

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2012-035

Date: MAY 07 2012

In re: JOHNNY LEE WELCH, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

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

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel

On April 15, 2011, a judge of the California State Bar Court, Hearing Department issued an "Order Entering Default And Order Enrolling Inactive", ordering the respondent enrolled as an inactive member of the State Bar of California. Consequently, on April 26, 2012, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS") initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and Immigration Courts. The petition will be granted.

ORDER: The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(c). See 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014 (Jan. 13, 2012).

FURTHER ORDER: 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.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order.

FURTHER ORDER: The Board directs 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