

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

File: D2013-122

Date: JUN 10 2014

In re: DOUNNISEI K. GBALAZEH, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Diane H. Kier
Associate Legal Advisor

The respondent will be indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").

On April 21, 2014, the Disciplinary 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. The DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR presents an April 9, 2014, "Certificate" from the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Bar Association, who states that the respondent is not an active member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association. That is, the respondent is ineligible to practice law in Louisiana, due to non-payment of membership dues and an assessment in 2008, non-compliance with a Trust Account Disclosure Form in 2008, and non-compliance with mandatory continuing legal education requirements in 2010. Therefore, on May 13, 2014, the Board suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2013). The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the Notice constitutes an admission of the allegations therein, and the respondent is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2013).

The Notice proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The DHS asks that the Board extend that discipline to practice before it as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2013).

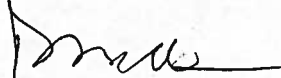
Since the proposed sanction is appropriate, given the facts and evidence presented by the EOIR Disciplinary Counsel, the Board will honor that proposal. As the respondent is currently under our May 13, 2014, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby indefinitely suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against her.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107 (2013).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2)(2013).



FOR THE BOARD