

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2016-0077

Date: JUN 16 2016

In re: TAIWO A. AGBAJE, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Catherine M. O'Connell  
Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes  
Disciplinary Counsel

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

On May 19, 2014, the Court of Appeals of Maryland disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in that state. Consequently, on April 25, 2016, the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before that agency. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts. We granted the petition on May 6, 2016.

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. 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.

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practicing before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks the Board to extend that discipline to practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts 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.

Because the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the respondent's disbarment in Maryland, the Board will honor that proposal. Further, as the respondent is currently under our May 6, 2016, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's disbarment to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment is deemed to have commenced on May 6, 2016.

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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 him.

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

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).

  
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FOR THE BOARD