

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2016-0152

Date:

AUG 30 2016

In re: ALMA R. BONILLA, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes
Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Jeannette V. Dever
Associate Legal Advisor

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 October 22, 2003, the Supreme Court of California accepted the voluntary resignation of the respondent with disciplinary proceedings pending. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline on July 19, 2016.¹

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 Board and the Immigration Courts. The Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS asks the Board to extend that discipline to practice before that agency 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. The proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the fact that on October 22, 2003, the Supreme Court of California accepted the voluntary resignation of the respondent with disciplinary proceedings pending.

¹ The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR also petitioned for the respondent’s immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4). Because the time period allowed for a response to the Notice of Intent to Discipline expired before we could rule on the petition for immediate suspension, we have not ruled on the petition but issue a final order of discipline in the respondent’s case.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment will commence 15 days after the date of this order. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been disbarred from practicing before these bodies.

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

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is 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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.

FURTHER ORDER: The contents of the order shall be made available to the public, including at the Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.



FOR THE BOARD