

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2017-0096

Date: **APR 25 2017**

In re: JAMES S. SARPONG, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes  
Disciplinary Counsel

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

On March 21, 2017, the Supreme Court of Colorado disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in that state, effective immediately. The “Order and Decision Imposing Sanctions” issued by the court discussed how the respondent, in three matters, failed to communicate and act with diligence, “effectively abandoning his vulnerable immigration clients.” The respondent, moreover, declined to cooperate with disciplinary authorities in their investigation. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) petitioned for the respondent’s immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals (“Board”) and the Immigration Courts on April 4, 2017, and states that he remains disbarred from the practice of law in Colorado, as of the date of its filing. The Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. The petition will be granted.<sup>1</sup>

ORDER: The petition is granted, and the respondent is immediately suspended from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

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 suspended from practicing before these bodies.

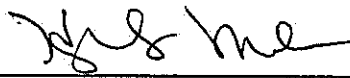
FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board may set aside the order of immediate suspension upon a showing of good cause when it appears in the interest of justice to do so. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. S. Me", is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD