

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2017-0095

Date: MAY 22 2017

In re: JUDE CHUKWUMA EZEALA, 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 indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board"), the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS").

On March 21, 2017, the respondent was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law in Maryland, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, after the court granted a joint petition filed by the parties. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts on March 28, 2017, and stated that the respondent remained suspended from the practice of law in Maryland, as of the date of its filing. The DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. We granted the petition on April 17, 2017.

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 of Intent to Discipline 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(d)(1).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. 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 of Intent to Discipline, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

The proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the discipline imposed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. We will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on April 17, 2017, the date of the Board's immediate suspension order.

ORDER: The Board hereby indefinitely suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The suspension is deemed to have commenced on April 17, 2017.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent must maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent must notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

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.

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.



FOR THE BOARD