

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2017-0099

Date: MAY 22 2017

In re: JANICE PAYTE OVIATT, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF DHS: 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 December 7, 2016, the District 4 Grievance Committee, Evidentiary Panel 4-3, State Bar of Texas issued a "Judgment of Disbarment", disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in Texas. The Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before that agency on April 3, 2017, and stated that the respondent remains disbarred from the practice of law in Texas, as of the date of its filing. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts. 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. 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 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 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 fact that on December 7, 2016, the District 4 Grievance Committee, Evidentiary Panel 4-3, State Bar of Texas issued a "Judgment of Disbarment", disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in Texas. Further, as the respondent is currently under our April 17, 2017, order of suspension, we will deem her 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 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 her.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. [unclear]", is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD