

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2016-0071

Date: **AUG 31 2017**

In re: Uchechi Okechukwu NWAKANMA, 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 December 10, 2015, we indefinitely suspended the respondent from practice before the Immigration Courts, Board, and DHS, in Case No. D2015-0246. This was based on an October 6, 2015, order of the Supreme Court of Kansas, which suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Kansas based on his failure to pay fees and comply with continuing education requirements. The suspension remains in effect, as the respondent has not been reinstated to practice by the Board.

The respondent was disbarred by the Supreme Court of Kansas on July 7, 2017. Notice of Intent to Discipline at Exh. 1; *Matter of Nwakanma*, 397 P.3d 403 (Kan. 2017). The Supreme Court of Kansas found that disbarment was appropriate, given the respondent’s misconduct in connection with his representation of two clients in criminal and immigration matters. Consequently, on July 14, 2017, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline.

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 (2017). 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 proposes that the respondent be disbarred 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, 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 respondent’s disbarment by the Supreme Court of Kansas. Accordingly, the Board will honor that proposal.

D2016-0071

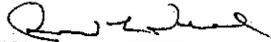
ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, effective immediately.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our December 10, 2015, suspension order in Case No. D2015-0246.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

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

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



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FOR THE BOARD