



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Board of Immigration Appeals

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Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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✓ Jennifer J. Barnes
Disciplinary Counsel
OGC/Executive Office for Immigration Review
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600
Falls Church, VA 22041

**Re: Laurence F. Johnson
D2017-0280**

Date: October 10, 2017

Enclosed is a copy of the Board's decision and order in the above-referenced case.

Donna Carr

Donna Carr
Chief Clerk

/hcr
Enclosure

Panel Members:

**MICHAEL CREPPY
GARRY MALPHRUS
HUGH MULLANE**

CC: Jeannette V. Dever
Associate Legal Advisor
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ICE/Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St. SW, Stop 5900
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CC: Catherine M. O'Connell
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USCIS/Department of Homeland Security
11411 East Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2017-0280

Date: **OCT 10 2017**

In re: Laurence F. JOHNSON, 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 July 28, 2017, the Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an order indefinitely suspending the respondent from the practice of law in that state, effective 15 days from the date of the order. On August 17, 2017, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. We granted the petition on September 13, 2017.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline (Notice) 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 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, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105.

Because the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the respondent's indefinite suspension in Maryland, the Board will honor that proposal. Further, as the respondent is currently under our September 13, 2017, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

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 September 13, 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