

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

---

File: D2017-0382

Date: OCT 24 2017

In re: Gary J. STERN, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Catherine M. O'Connell  
Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes  
Disciplinary Counsel

On September 7, 2016, the respondent entered into a plea agreement by which he pled guilty to two counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of false income tax returns in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2). Based on this conduct, the respondent was found to have violated Rules 8.4(b) and (c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and, on May 18, 2017, the Supreme Court of Illinois issued a final order striking the respondent from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois.

On October 10, 2017, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before that agency. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) and the Immigration Courts. The petition will be granted.<sup>1</sup> See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.103(a)(1), (2) and (4) (2017) (discussing grounds for immediate suspension).

ORDER: The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. 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.

---

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

D2017-0382

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



---

FOR THE BOARD