

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2001-088

Date: JUL 30 2001

In re: CHRIS H. ASHER, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF SERVICE: Javier Balasquide, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On March 5, 2001, the Court of Appeals of Maryland disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in that state.¹ On May 24, 2001, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals disbarred the respondent from practicing law in that jurisdiction as well.

Consequently, on July 12, 2001, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On July 23, 2001, the Immigration and Naturalization Service asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency.

The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended, absent a showing of good cause, from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the Service pending final disposition of this proceeding. See 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a).

Accordingly, the respondent is directed to promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the Service that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies. The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order. Moreover, we direct that the contents of this notice be made available to the public, including at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the Service.


FOR THE BOARD

¹ The respondent is not a member of the Maryland bar, but of the District of Columbia bar. Nonetheless, under Rule 8.5(b) of the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct, the Maryland bar may discipline an attorney who practices law within that state.