

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2003-072

Date:  APR 2 - 2008

In re: RICHARD A. WILLIAMS, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Bar Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Eileen M. Connolly, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS"), for 4 years and 9 months.

On December 20, 2002, the respondent was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford-Norwalk. Consequently, on April 21, 2003, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On April 29, 2003, the DHS asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. Therefore, on May 29, 2003, the Board suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

The Office of General Counsel filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline on November 5, 2007. The government presents evidence that on May 23, 2007, the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford-Norwalk, suspended the respondent from the practice of law for 4 years and 9 months, effective January 31, 2003.

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(c)(1). 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(d)(1), (2).

The Notice, as amended, recommends that the respondent be suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts for 4 years and 9 months.¹ The DHS asks that the Board extend that discipline to practice before it as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an

¹The Office of General Counsel filed a motion on March 14, 2008, stating that it was seeking a suspension period of 4 years and 9 months, and earlier had inadvertently recommended a lesser suspension. The respondent has not responded to the motion.

answer, the regulations direct the Board to adopt the recommendation contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that recommendation. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

Since the recommendation is appropriate, given the respondent's suspension in Connecticut, the Board will honor that recommendation. Accordingly, the Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for a period of 4 years and 9 months.

As the respondent is currently under the Board's May 29, 2003, order of suspension, the respondent's suspension will be deemed to have commenced on that date. The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him. The respondent may seek reinstatement under appropriate circumstances. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(b).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. M. A.", is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD