

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2003-086

Date: JUL 24 2003

In re: ARMANDO JAVIER MENDEZ, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

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

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

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On March 3, 2003, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law for one year, stayed, with an actual suspension of 90 days, and later probation, subject to other conditions, by the Supreme Court of California. The State Bar Court Hearing Department had decided on September 4, 2002, that the respondent had provided inadequate assistance, in immigration cases.

Consequently, on July 1, 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 July 7, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly 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 DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a).¹

Accordingly, the respondent is directed to 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. 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 DHS.



FOR THE BOARD

¹Regulations relating to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, found in title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, were reorganized on February 28, 2003, due to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. *See* 68 FR 9824 (February 28, 2003). There was no substantive changes made to the regulations. *Id.* at 9825. Until February 28, 2003, 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a) was found at 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a).