U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review

Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2004-229 Date:

APR I 1 2007

In re: BITA LOGHMAN HOFFMAN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Rachel A. McCarthy, Bar Counsel

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

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On December 12, 2006, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the respondent pled guilty and was convicted of "serious crimes" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h), relating to her immigration law practice. That is, the respondent was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, and one count of making and causing the making of false statements in documents required by immigration laws and knowingly presenting those documents to immigration authorities, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1546(a).

Consequently, on March 29, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS"), initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. On April 3, 2007, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and Immigration Courts.

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), 1292.3(c).

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.