

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2006-162

Date: January 30, 2007

In re: GARY ANTHONY SIPLIN, 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 November 3, 2006, the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial District of Orange County, Florida, entered judgment against the respondent on a 2-count indictment charging one felony count of grand theft, third degree, and one misdemeanor count of use of services of officers or employees, after the respondent was found guilty by a jury. As to the first count of the indictment, the respondent was sentenced to 1 day imprisonment, 36 months supervised probation, 300 hours of community service, and restitution. As to the second count of the indictment, the respondent was sentenced to 1 day imprisonment, and 12 months supervised probation, to be served concurrently. Both crimes are "serious crimes" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h). On September 1, 2006, the respondent was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Florida.

Consequently, on January 11, 2007, 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 January 18, 2007, 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).

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.

  
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FOR THE BOARD