

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

AUG 12 2010

File: D2009-008

Date:

In re: BENT KARLSEN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel

The respondent will be expelled from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").¹

On December 23, 2008, the respondent was disbarred by the Supreme Court of North Dakota. Consequently, on February 3, 2009, the DHS initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and Immigration Courts. Therefore, on February 19, 2009, we suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline (Amended) but has failed to do so. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.105(c)(1); 1292.3(e)(3)(ii). 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. § 1292.3(e)(3)(ii).

The Notice proposes that the respondent be expelled from practice before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks that we extend that discipline to practice before the Board and Immigration Courts as well. As the respondent failed to file a timely answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.105(d)(2); 1292.3(e)(3)(ii).

Since the proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent's disbarment in North Dakota, we will honor it. Accordingly, we hereby expel the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. As the respondent is currently under our February 19, 2009, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's expulsion to have commenced on that date.

¹The Board issued a final order of discipline on March 20, 2009, but vacated this order on April 13, 2009, as premature, because the DHS had not submitted proof of personal service of the Notice of Intent to Discipline. On June 23, 2010, the DHS filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline (Amended), with adequate proof of service. 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e)(1)(2010).

ORDER: The Board hereby expels the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS.

FURTHER ORDER: 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.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(b).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2)(2010); *Matter of Kronegold*, 25 I&N Dec. 157, 163 (BIA 2010).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick D. Hess", is written over a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD