

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2011-434

Date: JAN 9 2012

In re: RITA MAHDESSIAN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Scott Anderson, Deputy Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Diane H. Kier
Associate Legal Advisor

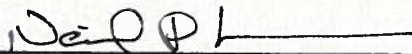
On November 2, 2011, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law for one year, stayed, with an actual suspension of five months, and probation for two years, by the Supreme Court of California. Consequently, on December 22, 2011, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. The Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS") then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. The petition will be granted.

ORDER: 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).

FURTHER ORDER: 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.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order.

FURTHER ORDER: The Board directs 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