

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

File: D2014-099

Date: **SEP 30 2014**

In re: HAIG P. ASHIKIAN, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

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

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

On January 23, 2014, a judge of the California State Bar Court, Hearing Department - Los Angeles issued a "Decision and Order Of Involuntary Inactive Enrollment", ordering the respondent enrolled as an inactive member of the State Bar of California. Consequently, on April 15, 2014, 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 DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency.

Therefore, on April 30, 2014, the Board suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. On June 9, 2014, the Supreme Court of California disbarred the respondent, and the EOIR Disciplinary Counsel thereafter filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline but has failed to do so. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2013). 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. § 1003.105(2013).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The Disciplinary Counsel for DHS asks the Board to extend that discipline to practice before that agency as well. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board 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§ (2013).

Because the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the respondent's disbarment in California, the Board will honor that proposal. Further, as the respondent is currently under our April 30, 2014, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's disbarment to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars 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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2) (2013).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2) (2013).



FOR THE BOARD