

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2012-363

Date: JUN 14 2013

In re: JOSEPH AWAH FRU, 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 indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").

On April 24, 2013, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued an order indefinitely suspending the respondent from the practice of law. Consequently, on May 1, 2013, 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 May 8, 2013, the Board 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 but has failed to do so. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2012); 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012); *see also* 78 Fed. Reg. 24669 (April 26, 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 (2012); 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012); *see also* 78 Fed. Reg. 24669 (April 26, 2013).

The Notice proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. 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 (2012); 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012); *see also* 78 Fed. Reg. 24669 (April 26, 2013).

Since the proposed sanction is appropriate, in light of the respondent being indefinitely suspended from the practice of law by the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Board will honor that proposal. As the respondent is currently under our May 8, 2013, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby indefinitely suspends 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 her.

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 (2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2015 (Jan. 13, 2012); *see also* 78 Fed. Reg. 24669 (April 26, 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) (2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2015 (Jan. 13, 2012); *see also* 78 Fed. Reg. 24669 (April 26, 2013).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom', written over a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD