

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2012-272

Date:

OCT 23 2012

In re: JUAN ANTONIO VEGA, 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 indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").

On September 10, 2012, the DHS initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. The DHS presented a certification from the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas concerning the respondent. The statement says that on April 30, 2012, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Texas based on non-compliance with continuing legal education requirements. Additionally, on August 10, 2012, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Texas due to non-compliance with Texas Supreme Court rules concerning repayment of Texas Guaranteed Student Loans. The statement says that the respondent is not currently authorized to practice as an attorney in Texas.

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 September 24, 2012, 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. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012). 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); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practice before the DHS, and 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(2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012).

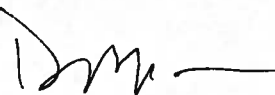
The proposed sanction is appropriate, considering the respondent's suspension from the practice of law in Texas. Therefore, we will honor the proposed sanction. Accordingly, we hereby indefinitely suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. As the respondent is currently under our September 24, 2012, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's indefinite 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 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(2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2015 (Jan. 13, 2012).

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).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD