

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2016-0252

Date: DEC 12 2016

In re: CHRISTOPHER RAMOS MACARAEG, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes
Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Jeannette V. Dever
Associate Legal Advisor

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

On July 15, 2016, the Supreme Court of California disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in California. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline on October 20, 2016.¹

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. 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.

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practicing before the Board and the Immigration Courts. The 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.

¹ The Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR also petitioned for the respondent’s immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4). Given our disposition here, that petition is now moot. In any event, on February 10, 2015, in Case No. D2014-331, the Board indefinitely suspended the respondent from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS. This was based on the respondent being suspended by the Supreme Court of California, and having resigned from the bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The respondent has not been reinstated to practice by the Board in Case No. D2014-331.

The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent's disbarment in California. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.101(a)(1) (disbarment is a disciplinary sanction that may be imposed by the Board); 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(e) (practitioner who has been disbarred is subject to discipline by the Board).

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment will commence 15 days after the date of this order. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

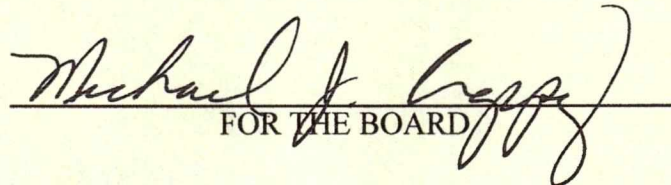
FURTHER ORDER: The respondent shall promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been disbarred from practicing before these bodies.

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

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is 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. § 1003.107.

FURTHER ORDER: The contents of the order shall be made available to the public, including at the Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.


FOR THE BOARD