

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
Board of Immigration Appeals

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MATTER OF:

Ellen F. BIGHAM, D2025-0014

Respondent

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**FILED**

APR 01 2025

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul A. Rodrigues, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Amy S. Paulick, Disciplinary Counsel

**IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**  
Notice of Intent to Discipline Before the Board of Immigration Appeals

Before: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge; Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge; Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Creppy, Appellate Immigration Judge

CREPPY, Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent will be indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), effective February 24, 2025.

On July 17, 2023, the Supreme Court of Maryland indefinitely suspended the respondent from the practice of law in Maryland. On February 3, 2025, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Disciplinary Counsel for DHS jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. We granted the petition on February 24, 2025.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Joint 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 prescribed in the Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline 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(d)(1).

The Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Joint Notice of Intent to Discipline unless there are considerations that compel us to diverge from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

The proposed sanction is appropriate considering the respondent's indefinite suspension in Maryland. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent

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indefinitely suspended from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS. The respondent's suspension will be effective as of February 24, 2025, the date we issued an immediate suspension order in the respondent's case.

ORDER: The Board hereby indefinitely suspends the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and DHS, effective February 24, 2025.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent must maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent must notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against her.

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

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.