

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2019-0341

Date: OCT 29 2019

In re: Joan Othelia PINNOCK, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

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

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Catherine M. O'Connell, Disciplinary Counsel

The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board"), the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, on October 22, 2019. The petition will be granted.

On December 5, 2018, the Supreme Court of New Jersey filed an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in New Jersey for 3 months, effective January 4, 2019, based on gross neglect; pattern of neglect; lack of diligence; failure to communicate with a client, and conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

On March 13, 2019, the Supreme Court of New Jersey filed an order temporarily suspending the respondent from the practice of law in New Jersey, for failure to comply with the determination of a fee arbitration committee, effective April 12, 2019. The order noted that the respondent remained under the court's December 5, 2018, suspension order.

The Disciplinary Counsels for EOIR and the DHS state that the respondent remains suspended from the practice of law in New Jersey as of the date of the joint petition for immediate suspension, which will be granted.<sup>1</sup> See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.103(a)(1) and (4) (discussing grounds for immediate suspension).

ORDER: The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

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 suspended from practicing before these bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon good cause shown, the Board may set aside the order of immediate suspension when it appears in the interest of justice to do so. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

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

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

  
FOR THE BOARD