

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2019-0107

Date:

NOV 14 2019

In re: Diego HANDEL, Attorney

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

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

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

On March 12, 2019, the Supreme Court of Florida approved a petition for emergency suspension filed by the Florida Bar and issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in that state until further order of the court, effective immediately. On April 12, 2019, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency. We granted the petition on April 25, 2019.

On May 30, 2019, the Supreme Court of Florida issued an order disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in Florida, effective immediately. On September 24, 2019, the Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR filed a Notice of Intent to Discipline charging that the respondent is subject to reciprocal discipline under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(e) due to his disbarment in Florida.

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. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105. The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the 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 Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be disbarred from practicing before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. The Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS asks us to extend that discipline to practice before that agency. Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2).

The proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the respondent's disbarment in Florida. We therefore will honor the proposed discipline and will order the respondent disbarred from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. Further, as the

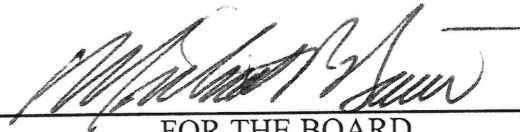
respondent is currently under our April 25, 2019, order of suspension, we will deem his disbarment to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment is deemed to have commenced on April 25, 2019.

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

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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Sauer", is written over a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD