

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2021-0098

Date: JUL 19 2021

In re: Richard Lamar WILLIAMS, 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 ("Board"), the Immigration Courts, and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS").

On April 15, 2021, the Supreme Court of Florida disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in Florida, effective May 15, 2021. On May 17, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") and the Disciplinary Counsel for the DHS jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. We granted the petition on June 24, 2021.

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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(e) (providing that attorney who is disbarred is subject to discipline).

Because the respondent has failed to file an answer, the regulations direct the Board 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 fact that the Supreme Court of Florida disbarred the respondent from the practice of law in Florida. Further, as the respondent is currently under our June 24, 2021, 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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The disbarment is deemed to have commenced on June 24, 2021.

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 him.

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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, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Maguire", is written above a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD