

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2005-240

Date: DEC 13 2005

In re: CLAUDE HENRY KLEEFIELD, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Rachel A. McCarthy, Ethics Counsel

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Bar Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On September 20, 2005, the respondent was suspended from the practice of law for a period of 3 months, by the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department.

Consequently, on October 24, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service), initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. On October 28, 2005, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and immigration courts. The DHS later informed the Board that the effective date of the New York order was extended until November 20, 2005. Therefore, on December 2, 2005, we suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

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(c)(1); 1292.3(e)(3)(ii). 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. § 1292.3(e)(3)(ii).

The Notice recommends that the respondent be suspended from practicing before the DHS for a period of 3 months. The Office of General Counsel of EOIR asks that we extend that discipline to practice before the Board and immigration courts as well. Because the respondent failed to file a timely answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the recommendation contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that recommendation. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.105(d)(2); 1292.3(e)(3)(ii). Since the recommendation is appropriate in light of the respondent's discipline in New York, we will honor it. Accordingly, we hereby suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS for a period of 3 months. As the respondent is currently under our December 2, 2005, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date. The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also

instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him. The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(b). In order to be reinstated, the respondent must demonstrate that he meets the definition of an attorney or representative, as set forth in 8 C.F.R. §§ 1001.1(f) and (j). *Id.* Therefore, the respondent must show that he has been reinstated to practice law in New York before he may be reinstated by the Board. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1001.1(f) (stating that term “attorney” does not include any individual under order suspending him from the practice of law).



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FOR THE BOARD