

Falls Church, Virginia 20530

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File: D2014-052

Date:

APR - 9 2014

In re: GREGORY LANCE WILLIAMS, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

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

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel

The respondent will be suspended from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS"), for three years.

On November 15, 2013, the District 1 Grievance Committee, Evidentiary Panel 1-1 for the State Bar of Texas issued a "Default Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension" concerning the respondent. The respondent was suspended for a period of four years, beginning November 8, 2013, and ending November 7, 2017. The respondent was actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of three years beginning November 8, 2013, and ending November 7, 2016, followed by probated suspension. Consequently, on February 27, 2014, the DHS initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and Immigration Courts. Therefore, on March 26, 2014, 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. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2013); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). 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. § 1003.105(2013); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be suspended from practice for three years before the DHS, and the Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks that we extend that discipline to practice before the Board and Immigration Courts as well. As the respondent failed to file a timely answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2013); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e).

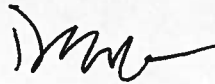
Since the proposed sanction is appropriate in light of the fact that on November 15, 2013, the District 1 Grievance Committee, Evidentiary Panel 1-1 for the State Bar of Texas issued a "Default Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension" concerning the respondent, we will honor it. Accordingly, we hereby suspend the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, for three years. As the respondent is currently under our March 26, 2014, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's suspension to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby suspends the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS, for three years.

FURTHER ORDER: 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.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(2013).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2)(2013).



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FOR THE BOARD