

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2004-006

Date: MAR 19 2004

In re: WALTER T. JOHNSON, JR., ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL: Jennifer J. Barnes, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Eileen M. Connolly, Appellate Counsel

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On February 13, 2004, the North Carolina State Bar suspended the respondent from the practice of law in that state for a period of 3 years, effective 30 days from service of the written order upon him, with the entire suspension period stayed for a period of 5 years upon proof of compliance with certain conditions. The North Carolina State Bar found that the respondent had neglected client matters, failed to communicate with clients, retained clearly excessive fees, failed to participate in good faith in the fee dispute resolution process, failed to file prompt responses to inquiries of a disciplinary authority, and handled a legal matter which he knew of should have known that he was not competent to handle.

Consequently, on February 24, 2004, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On March 2, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency.

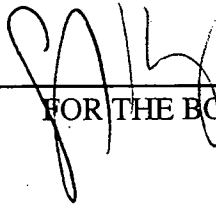
The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended, absent a showing of good cause, from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a).<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, the respondent is directed to 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. The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order. Moreover, we direct that the contents of this notice be made available to the public, including

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<sup>1</sup>Regulations relating to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, found in title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, were reorganized on February 28, 2003, due to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. *See* 68 FR 9824 (February 28, 2003). There was no substantive changes made to the regulations. *Id.* at 9825. Until February 28, 2003, 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a) was found at 8 C.F.R. § 3.103(a).

at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H.', is written over a horizontal line.

FOR THE BOARD