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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

PUBLIC COPY

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FILE:

Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date:

AUG 17 2007

IN RE:

Applicant:

APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act  
of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The record reflects that the applicant is a native and citizen of Cuba. On October 12, 2006, the District Director denied the applicant's Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Resident or Adjust Status, and the applicant filed an appeal from that denial. The AAO does not have appellate jurisdiction over an appeal from the denial of an application for adjustment of status under the Cuban Adjustment Act.

The authority to adjudicate appeals is delegated to the AAO by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pursuant to the authority vested in him through the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296. See DHS Delegation Number 0150.1 (effective March 1, 2003); see also 8 C.F.R. § 2.1 (2003). The AAO exercises appellate jurisdiction over the matters described at 8 C.F.R. § 103.1(f)(3)(iii) (as in effect on February 28, 2003).

The AAO cannot exercise appellate jurisdiction over additional matters on its own volition, or at the request of an applicant or petitioner. As a "statement of general . . . applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy," the creation of appeal rights for adjustment application denials meets the definition of an agency "rule" under section 551 of the Administrative Procedure Act. The granting of appeal rights has a "substantive legal effect" because it is creating a new administrative "right," and it involves an economic interest (the fee). "If a rule creates rights, assigns duties, or imposes obligations, the basic tenor of which is not already outlined in the law itself, then it is substantive."

All substantive or legislative rule making requires notice and comment in the Federal Register.

The AAO does not have jurisdiction over an appeal from the denial of a Form I-485 adjustment application filed under the Cuban Adjustment Act. Accordingly, the appeal must be rejected.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected.