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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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*OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS*
*425 Eye Street N.W.*
*ULLB, 3rd Floor*
*Washington, D.C. 20536*

[redacted]

File: [redacted] Office: Texas Service Center Date: JAN 2 1 2001

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary: [redacted]

Petition: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(1)(A)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:
This is the decision 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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of $110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Elizabeth Hayward

for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner, a restaurant, seeks to classify the beneficiary as an employment-based immigrant pursuant to section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(1)(A), as an alien of extraordinary ability as a cook. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary qualifies for classification as an alien of extraordinary ability.

In a letter accompanying the appeal, the petitioner states: "We are asking you to reconsider your decision to classify [the beneficiary] as an alien with extraordinary ability."

The beneficiary states that the reason for the appeal is to "change the form filed for this petition." He further states: "At the time I applied under section 203(b)(1)(A), Alien of Extraordinary Ability, I [did not have] exact information about my application and maybe I filed a wrong Form I-140."

The petitioner and beneficiary appear to be requesting whether the petition may be considered under a separate immigrant classification. There is, however, no provision in statute, regulation, or case law which permits a petitioner to change the classification of a petition once a decision has been rendered. Consequently, discussion in this matter may relate only to the beneficiary's eligibility pursuant to section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Act.

Section 203(b) of the Act states, in pertinent part, that:

> (1) Priority Workers. -- Visas shall first be made available . . . to qualified immigrants who are aliens described in any of the following subparagraphs (A) through (C):
>
> > (A) Aliens with Extraordinary Ability. -- An alien is described in this subparagraph if --
> >
> > > (i) the alien has extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim and whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation,
> > >
> > > (ii) the alien seeks to enter the United States to continue work in the area of extraordinary ability, and
> > >
> > > (iii) the alien's entry to the United States will substantially benefit prospectively the United States.

As used in this section, the term "extraordinary ability" means a level of expertise indicating that the individual is one of that small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. 8 C.F.R. 204.5(h)(2). The specific requirements for supporting documents to establish that an alien has sustained national or international acclaim and recognition in his or her field of expertise are set forth in the Service regulation at 8 C.F.R. 204.5(h)(3).

The documentation submitted in support of a claim of extraordinary ability must clearly demonstrate that the alien has achieved sustained national or international acclaim, is one of the small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor, and that the alien's entry into the United States will substantially benefit prospectively the United States. The petitioner has failed to demonstrate the beneficiary's receipt of a major internationally recognized award, or that the beneficiary meets at least three of the criteria that must be satisfied to establish the sustained acclaim necessary to qualify as an alien of extraordinary ability.

On appeal, the petitioner offers no specific arguments or evidence pertaining to the regulatory criteria at 8 C.F.R. 204.5(h)(3). A review of the record does not establish that the beneficiary has distinguished himself as a cook to such an extent that he may be said to have achieved sustained national or international acclaim or to be within the small percentage at the very top of his field. Therefore, the petitioner has not established the beneficiary's eligibility pursuant to section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Act and the petition may not be approved.

The burden of proof in visa petition proceedings remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.