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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



JAN 11 2002

File: [Redacted]

Office: Texas Service Center

Date:

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

Petition: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Member of the Professions Holding an Advanced Degree or an Alien of Exceptional Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(2)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:
[Redacted]

PUBLIC COPY

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.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

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 rejected.

The petitioner seeks to classify the beneficiary pursuant to section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(2), as a member of the professions holding an advanced degree. The petitioner is a university which seeks to employ the beneficiary as a harp instructor. The petitioner asserts that an exemption from the requirement of a job offer, and thus of a labor certification, is in the national interest of the United States. The director found that the beneficiary qualifies for classification as a member of the professions holding an advanced degree, but that the petitioner had not established that an exemption from the requirement of a job offer would be in the national interest of the United States.

The appeal was filed untimely. The director denied the petition on December 15, 1998, and no appeal was filed until August 9, 1999, well after the thirty-day appeal period established by 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(i). The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) requires the rejection of appeals not filed within the time allowed. 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) provides that an untimely appeal may, under some circumstances, qualify as a motion to reopen or to reconsider, but we need not explore this issue in depth. Even if the appeal had been filed in a timely manner, the regulations would still require rejection of the appeal.

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(1)(iii) states, in pertinent part:

(B) *Meaning of affected party.* For purposes of this section and sections 103.4 and 103.5 of this part, *affected party* (in addition to the Service) means the person or entity with legal standing in a proceeding. It does not include the beneficiary of a visa petition.

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v) states:

Improperly filed appeal -- (A) Appeal filed by person or entity not entitled to file it -- (1) Rejection without refund of filing fee. An appeal filed by a person or entity not entitled to file it must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

The untimely appeal in this instance has not been filed by the petitioner, nor by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding, but rather by the beneficiary. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed, and must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.