



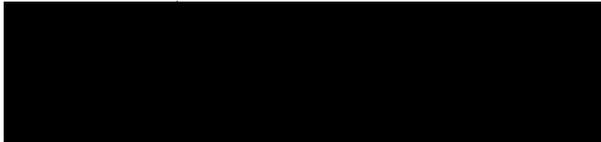
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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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



File: 

Office: Texas Service Center

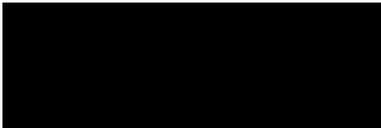
Date: 06 FEB 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker or Professional Pursuant to § 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



PUBLIC COPY

INSTRUCTIONS:

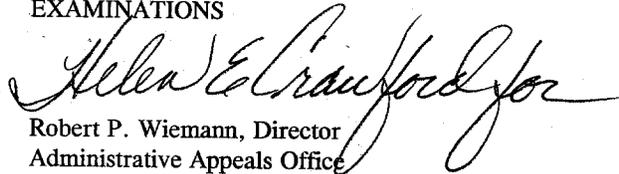
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

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 which 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 which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference 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 is an importer and exporter. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a sales manager. As required by statute, the petition is accompanied by an individual labor certification approved by the Department of Labor. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that it had the financial ability to pay the beneficiary the proffered wage as of the filing date of the visa petition.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief and additional evidence.

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(i), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who are capable, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph, of performing skilled labor (requiring at least two years training or experience), not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States.

8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2) states in pertinent part:

Ability of prospective employer to pay wage. Any petition filed by or for an employment-based immigrant which requires an offer of employment must be accompanied by evidence that the prospective United States employer has the ability to pay the proffered wage. The petitioner must demonstrate this ability at the time the priority date is established and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. Evidence of this ability shall be either in the form of copies of annual reports, federal tax returns, or audited financial statements.

Eligibility in this matter hinges on the petitioner's ability to pay the wage offered as of the petition's filing date, which is the date the request for labor certification was accepted for processing by any office within the employment system of the Department of Labor. Matter of Wing's Tea House, 16 I&N Dec. 158 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1977). Here, the petition's filing date is March 12, 1998. The beneficiary's salary as stated on the labor certification is \$58,000.00 annually.

Counsel initially submitted insufficient evidence of the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage. On December 1,

2000, the director requested additional evidence to establish that the petitioner had the ability to pay the proffered wage as of March 12, 1998, to include the petitioner's 1998 corporate income tax return.

In response, counsel submitted copies of the petitioner's U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation. The federal tax return for the period from June 1, 1998 through May 31, 1999 reflected gross receipts of \$1,919,013; gross profit of \$89,412; compensation of officers of \$0; salaries and wages paid of \$30,600; depreciation of \$808; and a taxable income before net operating loss deduction and special deductions of -\$9,008. Schedule L reflected total current assets of \$183,494 and total current liabilities of \$156,221. The federal tax return for the period from June 1, 1999 through May 31, 2000 reflected gross receipts of \$1,504,080; gross profit of \$88,788; compensation of officers of \$0; salaries and wages paid of \$33,800; depreciation of \$808; and a taxable income before net operating loss deduction and special deductions of \$6,022. Schedule L reflected total current assets of \$172,992 and total current liabilities of \$139,463.

The director determined that the evidence did not establish that the petitioner had the ability to pay the proffered wage and denied the petition accordingly.

On appeal, counsel submits the individual federal income tax return for the beneficiary for 1999/2000, a copy of the beneficiary's W-2 Wage and Tax Statement which shows he was paid \$33,800.00 in 2000, and \$31,200 in 1999, a corporation balance sheet for the period ended March 31, 2001, and copies of the petitioner's checking account statements for June through March of 2001. Counsel argues that the beneficiary's employment will result in more income for the business. Counsel does not explain, however, the basis for such a conclusion. For example, the petitioner has not demonstrated that the beneficiary will replace less productive workers, transform the nature of the petitioner's operation, or increase the number of customers on the strength of his reputation. Absent evidence of these savings, this statement can only be taken as the counsel's personal opinion. Consequently, the Service is unable to take the potential earnings to be generated by the beneficiary's employment into consideration.

A review of the tax return for the period from June 1 1998 through May 31, 1999 shows that when one adds the taxable income and the depreciation, the total equals -\$8,200, less than the proffered wage.

A review of the federal tax return for the period from June 1, 1999

through May 31, 2000 shows that when one adds the taxable income and the depreciation, the total equals \$6,830, again, less than the proffered wage.

Accordingly, after a review of the federal tax returns, it is concluded that the petitioner has not established that it had sufficient available funds to pay the salary offered at the time of filing of the petition and continuing to present.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.