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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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invasion of personal privacy**

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

[Redacted]

File: [Redacted] Office: Texas Service Center

Date: 19 SEP 2002

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

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:

[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.

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

Robert P. Wiemann
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 a company involved in the sale and repair of oriental rugs. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as an oriental rug repairer. 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 priority date of the visa petition.

On appeal, counsel submits a copy of the petitioner's 1999 Form 1120S U.S. Income Tax Return for an [REDACTED] an Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File Corporation Income Tax Return, an unaudited Profit and Loss Statement for 2000, and an unaudited Profit and Loss Statement for the period from January through June 2001.

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 priority 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 priority date is July 26, 2000. The beneficiary's salary as stated on the labor certification is [REDACTED] per hour or [REDACTED] per annum.

Counsel initially submitted insufficient evidence of the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage. On April 23, 2001, the director requested additional evidence to establish that the petitioner had the ability to pay the proffered wage.

In response, counsel submitted a copy of the petitioner's unaudited financial statement for the period ended January 21, 2000.

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 argues that:

The petitioner in this case does in fact have the ability to pay the proffered wages to the beneficiary. The petitioner has offices in Texas, Louisiana and Arizona, and all locations are owned and operated by the same individual (owner). Further, the Louisiana location independently has the financial ability to pay the proffered wage.

Counsel further argues that "[a]ll the Parvizian companies are solely owned by the President of the Petitioner, [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] companies jointly employ over forty (40) individuals and have annual revenues in excess of [REDACTED]."

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2) lists the forms of evidence which are required to demonstrate the ability to pay the wage offered. The petitioner has not submitted any relevant tax returns, offering only unaudited financial statements. The petitioner must show that it has the ability to pay the proffered wage at the time the priority date is established and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. Based on the evidence submitted, it cannot be found that the petitioner has established that it had sufficient funds available to pay the beneficiary the proffered wage as of the priority date of the application for alien employment certification as required by 8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2). Therefore, the petition may not be approved.



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.