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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

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



File: SRC-01-201-52833 Office: Texas Service Center

Date: MAR 31 2003

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER: SELF-REPRESENTED

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.


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The director's decision will be withdrawn and the matter will be remanded to her for consideration of the appeal as a motion.

The petitioner is a law office with six employees and an undisclosed gross annual income. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a legal assistant and foreign legal consultant for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the proffered position is a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel submits additional information.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i):

Filing appeal. The affected party shall file an appeal on Form I-290B. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the affected party must pay the fee required by section 103.7 of this part. The affected party shall file the complete appeal including any supporting brief with the office where the unfavorable decision was made within 30 days after service of the decision.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B):

Untimely appeal--(1) Rejection without refund of filing fee. An appeal which is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

(2) Untimely appeal treated as motion. If an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen as described in section 103.5(a)(2) of this part or a motion to reconsider as described in section 103.5(a)(3) of this part, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case.

The record indicates that the petition was denied on December 17, 2001. The record further indicates that the appeal was filed with the appropriate filing fee on April 29, 2002, 133 days after service of the decision. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed, and the matter will be remanded to the director for consideration of the appeal as a motion.

ORDER: The decision of the director is withdrawn. The matter is remanded to her for further action and consideration consistent with the above discussion and entry of a new decision which, if adverse to the petitioner, is to be certified to the AAO for review.