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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



DB

APR 11 2005

FILE: EAC 04 252 53153 Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date:

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

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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office 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 service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained. The petition will be approved.

The petitioner is a non-profit performing arts company. It seeks classification of the beneficiary as a young artist trainee. The director found that the training program had no fixed schedule, objectives or means of evaluation. The director also determined that the petitioner did not establish that the training is unavailable overseas. Finally, the director stated that the beneficiary might be engaged in productive employment.

On appeal, the petitioner submits a statement stating that the director erred in making these determinations.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(iii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), provides classification for an alien having a residence in a foreign country, which he or she has no intention of abandoning, who is coming temporarily to the United States as a trainee, other than to receive graduate medical education or training, in a training program that is not designed primarily to provide productive employment.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(7) states, in pertinent part:

(ii) Evidence required for petition involving alien trainee--(A) Conditions. The petitioner is required to demonstrate that:

- (1) The proposed training is not available in the alien's own country;
- (2) The beneficiary will not be placed in a position which is in the normal operation of the business and in which citizens and resident workers are regularly employed;
- (3) The beneficiary will not engage in productive employment unless such employment is incidental and necessary to the training; and
- (4) The training will benefit the beneficiary in pursuing a career outside the United States.

(B) Description of training program. Each petition for a trainee must include a statement which:

- (1) Describes the type of training and supervision to be given, and the structure of the training program;
- (2) Sets forth the proportion of time that will be devoted to productive employment;
- (3) Shows the number of hours that will be spent, respectively, in classroom instruction and in on-the-job training;

- (5) Describes the career abroad for which the training will prepare the alien;
 - (6) Indicates the reasons why such training cannot be obtained in the alien's country and why it is necessary for the alien to be trained in the United States; and
 - (7) Indicates the source of any remuneration received by the trainee and any benefit, which will accrue to the petitioner for providing the training.
- (iii) Restrictions on training program for alien trainee. A training program may not be approved which:
- (A) Deals in generalities with no fixed schedule, objectives, or means of evaluation;
 - (B) Is incompatible with the nature of the petitioner's business or enterprise;
 - (C) Is on behalf of a beneficiary who already possesses substantial training and expertise in the proposed field of training;
 - (D) Is in a field in which it is unlikely that the knowledge or skill will be used outside the United States;
 - (E) Will result in productive employment beyond that which is incidental and necessary to the training;
 - (F) Is designed to recruit and train aliens for the ultimate staffing of domestic operations in the United States;
 - (G) Does not establish that the petitioner has the physical plant and sufficiently trained manpower to provide the training specified; or
 - (H) Is designed to extend the total allowable period of practical training previously authorized a nonimmigrant student.

The record of proceeding before the AAO contains: (1) Form I-129 and supporting documentation; (2) the director's request for additional evidence; (3) the petitioner's response to the director's request; (4) the director's denial letter; and (5) Form I-290B and supporting documentation. The AAO reviewed the record in its entirety before issuing its decision.

The director found that the training program had no fixed schedule, objectives or means of evaluation. The petitioner filed a sample training program when it filed the petition. The program included a schedule with a breakdown of activities and the subjects to be studied. While the director is correct in stating that the petitioner did not establish that there are progress reviews or tests as part of the training, in reviewing the type of training, it is clear that this element is not relevant to the particular type of training proposed. The AAO

finds that the evidence submitted does establish that the petitioner has a training program with a fixed schedule and objectives as required by the regulations.

The director also determined that the petitioner did not establish that the training “cannot be obtained abroad.” The regulations only require that the training be unavailable in the beneficiary’s home country, not in any country other than the United States. The petitioner provided evidence that none of the opera companies in the beneficiary’s home country of Switzerland offers a training program for young performers similar to the proposed training. The AAO finds that the proposed training is not available in the beneficiary’s home country.

Finally, the director stated that the beneficiary could be engaged in productive employment, since an unspecified amount of time would be spent as a performer. The only evidence in the record on this topic indicates that there is a possibility of the beneficiary engaging in paid performances once a year. Since the beneficiary would be training as an opera singer, public performance is part of the training. Performing publicly once in a year does not constitute productive employment, given the length of the training program.

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 sustained that burden.

ORDER: The decision of the director is withdrawn and the appeal is sustained. The petition is approved.