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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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FILE: [Redacted]  
MSC-06-067-14202

Office: LOS ANGELES

Date: **APR 23 2008**

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, all documents have been returned to the National Records Center. You no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case. If your appeal was sustained or remanded for further action, you will be contacted.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application for temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreements reached in *Catholic Social Services, Inc., et al., v. Ridge, et al.*, CIV. NO. S-86-1343-LKK (E.D. Cal) January 23, 2004, and *Felicity Mary Newman, et al., v. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services, et al.*, CIV. NO. 87-4757-WDK (C.D. Cal) February 17, 2004 (CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements), was denied by the District Director, Los Angeles. The decision is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant submitted a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), and a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman Class Membership Worksheet. The director determined that the applicant had not established by a preponderance of the evidence that she had continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status for the duration of the requisite period. The director denied the application, finding that the applicant had not met her burden of proof and was, therefore, not eligible to adjust to temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements.

On appeal, the applicant stated that she entered the United States before January 1, 1982; that she provided evidence of continuous presence in the United States; and that she is admissible to the United States. The applicant stated that the affidavits she submitted include verifiable information, such as the address and telephone number of the affiants. The applicant also stated that she had entered the United States in 1981 at the age of 12.

An applicant for temporary resident status must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. Section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). The applicant must also establish that he or she has been continuously physically present in the United States since November 6, 1986. Section 245A(a)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(3). The regulations clarify that the applicant must have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b).

For purposes of establishing residence and physical presence under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, the term "until the date of filing" in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b) means until the date the applicant attempted to file a completed Form I-687 application and fee or was caused not to timely file during the original legalization application period of May 5, 1987 to May 4, 1988. CSS Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 6; Newman Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 10.

The applicant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite period, is admissible to the United States under the provisions of section 245A of the Act, and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status. The inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5).

Although the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3) provides an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit in support of his or her claim of continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since prior to January 1, 1982, the submission of any other relevant document is permitted pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

The “preponderance of the evidence” standard requires that the evidence demonstrate that the applicant's claim is “probably true,” where the determination of “truth” is made based on the factual circumstances of each individual case. *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). In evaluating the evidence, *Matter of E-M-* also stated that “[t]ruth is to be determined not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality.” *Id.* at 80. Thus, in adjudicating the application pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence standard, the director must examine each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, to determine whether the fact to be proven is probably true.

Even if the director has some doubt as to the truth, if the petitioner submits relevant, probative, and credible evidence that leads the director to believe that the claim is “probably true” or “more likely than not,” the applicant or petitioner has satisfied the standard of proof. *See U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421, 431 (1987) (defining “more likely than not” as a greater than 50 percent probability of something occurring). If the director can articulate a material doubt, it is appropriate for the director to either request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, deny the application or petition.

At issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has submitted sufficient credible evidence to meet her burden of establishing continuous unlawful residence in the United States during the requisite period. Here, the applicant has failed to meet this burden.

The record shows that the applicant submitted a Form I-687 application and Supplement to Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on December 6, 2005. At part #30 of the Form I-687 application where applicants were asked to list all residences in the United States since first entry, the applicant listed the following addresses during the requisite period: [REDACTED], Indio, California from December 1981 to July 1984; and [REDACTED] Whittier, California from August 1984 to July 1993. At part #33 where applicants were asked to list all employment in the United States since entry, the applicant indicated that she was employed only as a “waiter [sic]” for “Finas Cafe's [sic]” from August 1984 to January 1991 during the requisite period.

In an attempt to establish continuous unlawful residence in this country since prior to January 1, 1982, the applicant provided four attestations that relate to the requisite period. The applicant provided an affidavit from [REDACTED] which states that the affiant met the applicant in 1984 at Fina's Café. The affiant stated that “[the applicant and her sister] worked [at Fina's Café] as

food prepare [sic] and waitress respectively.” This information is inconsistent with the applicant’s Form I-687, where she indicated that she worked as a “waiter [sic]” at Fina’s Café, rather than as a food preparer. This inconsistency casts some doubt on the affiant’s ability to confirm that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period. This affidavit also fails to include detail regarding the affiant’s frequency of contact with the applicant, or whether the applicant was absent from the United States during the requisite period. As a result, this affidavit is found to lack sufficient detail to confirm that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period.

The applicant provided an affidavit from [REDACTED] which states that the affiant has first hand knowledge of the applicant’s continuous residence in the United States from 1984 to the present because the applicant worked for Fina’s Café, where the affiant was a regular customer and the applicant “worked as a food prepare [sic] until the end of 1989.” This information is inconsistent with the applicant’s Form I-687, where the applicant indicated she worked at Fina’s Café until January 1991. This inconsistency casts some doubt on the affiant’s knowledge of the applicant’s activities and, as a result, calls into question his ability to confirm that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period. In addition, the affidavit fails to provided detail regarding the affiant’s frequency of contact with the applicant, or whether the applicant was absent from the United States during the requisite period. As a result, this affidavit is found to lack sufficient detail to confirm that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period.

The applicant submitted an affidavit from [REDACTED] which states that the applicant was absent from the United States from June 1987 to July 1987. This affidavit fails to state that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period.

The applicant provided an affidavit from [REDACTED] which states that the applicant resided in the United States at the [REDACTED] address from December 1981 to July 1984. This affidavit is dated only April 18. The fact that the date of the affidavit is not complete casts some doubt on its authenticity. In addition, the affidavit fails to include detail regarding when the affiant met the applicant, their frequency of contact, and whether the applicant was absent from the United States during the requisite period. As a result, this affidavit is found to lack sufficient detail to confirm that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period.

In denying the application the director noted that the applicant had not established by a preponderance of the evidence that she had continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status for the duration of the requisite period.

On appeal, the applicant stated that she entered the United States before January 1, 1982; that she provided evidence of continuous presence in the United States; and that she is admissible to the United States.

In summary, the applicant has not provided any contemporaneous evidence of residence in the United States relating to the requisite period, and has submitted attestations from only four people concerning that period. The affidavits from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are inconsistent with the applicant's Form I-687 and lack sufficient detail. The affidavit from Sincere [REDACTED] fails to state that the applicant resided in the United States during the requisite period. The affidavit from [REDACTED] does not include a complete date and lacks sufficient detail.

The absence of sufficiently detailed supporting documentation to corroborate the applicant's claim of continuous residence for the entire requisite period seriously detracts from the credibility of this claim. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5), the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. Given the contradictions between the applicant's statements on Form I-687 and the documents she presented, and given her reliance upon documents with minimal probative value, it is concluded that she has failed to establish continuous residence in an unlawful status in the United States for the requisite period under both 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5) and *Matter of E- M--*, *supra*. The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act on this basis.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.