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Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

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ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE  
425 Eye Street N.W.  
BCIS, AAO, 20 Mass. 3/F  
Washington, D.C. 20536



**AUG 29 2003**

File:  Office: National Benefits Center Date:

IN RE: Applicant: 

Application: Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by LIFE Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: SELF-REPRESENTED

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Attached is the decision rendered on your appeal. The file has been returned to the Service Center that processed your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, the Service Center will contact you. If your appeal was dismissed, 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.



Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the Director, Missouri Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director concluded the applicant had not established that he had applied for class membership in any of the requisite legalization class-action lawsuits prior to October 1, 2000 and, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has submitted sufficient evidence to establish that he had requested class membership. The applicant declares that he has not received any specifics from the Service (now the Bureau) on why he is being denied or what part of his documentation is not acceptable.

An applicant for permanent resident status under the LIFE Act must establish that before October 1, 2000, he or she filed a written claim with the Attorney General for class membership in any of the following legalization class-action lawsuits: *Catholic Social Services, Inc. v. Meese*, vacated sub nom. *Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993), *League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc. (CSS)*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993), or *Zambrano v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Zambrano (Zambrano)*, 509 U.S. 918 (1993). See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10.

Bureau regulations provide an illustrative list of documents that an applicant may submit to establish that he or she filed a written claim for membership before October 1, 2000. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14. The regulations also permit the submission of "[a]ny other relevant document(s)." 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14(g).

The applicant failed to submit any documentation addressing this requirement when he filed his LIFE Act application. On rebuttal to a notice of intent to deny, the applicant provided a photocopy of a letter dated September 24, 2000, supposedly sent to Attorney General Reno, requesting that the applicant be registered in the CSS case. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245A.10, a written claim for class membership means a filing, in writing, in one of the forms listed in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14 that provides the Attorney General with notice that the applicant meets the class definition in the cases of CSS, LULAC or Zambrano. The letter does not constitute a "form" and does not equate to any of the actual forms listed in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14, although that regulation also states other "relevant documents" may be considered. However, the very brief letter does not even begin to imply that the applicant could qualify for membership in a legalization class action lawsuit because it does not provide any relevant information upon which a determination could be made. Moreover, the applicant offers no explanation as to

why, if this letter were truly in his possession the entire time, he did not submit it with his original LIFE Act application, as applicants were advised to provide evidence with such applications. In addition, it must be noted that the applicant is one of numerous aliens who did not furnish such letters with their LIFE Act applications and yet provided them only upon receiving a letter of intent to deny. These factors raise questions about the authenticity of the letter that the applicant purportedly sent to the Attorney General.

On appeal, the applicant claims that he provided information showing his request for classification but has not been given any specifics as to why his application was denied. Contrary to the applicant's claim, there is nothing in the record to indicate that he filed an actual claim for class membership. Furthermore, he was sent, and apparently received, a Notice of Decision, which described in detail why the application was being denied. The center director pointed out that the photocopy of the letter does not establish that the original was ever received by the office of the Attorney General or this Bureau. The director also stated a review of all Bureau records failed to disclose any indication of the applicant having made a written claim for class membership. Therefore, the applicant's claim on appeal is not compelling.

Given his failure to document that he filed a written claim for class membership, the applicant is ineligible for permanent residence under section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

In addition, it should be noted that the applicant indicated on his Form I-485 LIFE Act Application that he last entered the United States in 1990. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.11(b), each applicant must demonstrate that he or she entered the United States prior to January 1, 1982. The applicant offers no evidence of any earlier entry into this country. It appears that the applicant is unable to meet this requirement as well.

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