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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[REDACTED]

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: National Benefits Center

Date:

DEC 30 2004

IN RE:

Applicant:

[REDACTED]

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:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. The file has been returned to the office that originally decided your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. 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

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prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**

DISCUSSION: The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the Director, National Benefits Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office 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 he has submitted documentation establishing that he had requested class membership. He asserts the denial notice lacks specificity.

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) ("CSS"), *League of United Latin American Citizens v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993) ("LULAC"), or *Zambrano v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Zambrano*, 509 U.S. 918 (1993) ("Zambrano"). See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10.

The applicant failed to submit any documentation addressing this requirement when the application was filed. On rebuttal to a notice of intent to deny, the applicant provided a photocopy of a letter dated September 23, 2000, supposedly sent to former Attorney General Reno, requesting that the applicant be registered in the CSS v. Meese case. Pursuant to 8 CFR § 245a.10, a *written claim for class membership* means a filing, in writing, in one of the forms listed in § 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 the actual forms listed in 8 CFR § 245a.14, although that regulation also states other "relevant documents" may be considered. However, the brief letter does not imply that the applicant could qualify for CSS v. Meese class membership because it does not provide sufficient information upon which a determination could be made.

Moreover, the applicant does not explain *why*, if this letter were truly in his possession the entire time, he did not submit it with his LIFE application, as applicants were advised to provide evidence *with* their applications.

On appeal, the applicant claims that he provided information regarding his request for class membership but has not been given any specifics as to why his application was denied. However, there is nothing in the record to indicate that he filed an actual claim for class membership. The director indicated that the photocopy of the letter failed to establish that the applicant had filed a timely claim for class membership. The director also pointed out that a review of all relevant records, including his wife's file, failed to disclose any indication of the applicant having made a written claim for class membership.

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

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