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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



FILE: [Redacted] Office: National Benefits Center Date: JUN 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. All documents have 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



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

The directors 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 responded to the director's notice of intent to deny dated September 19, 2002 "with documentary evidence of been [sic] a class member by submitting a copy of my employment authorization card." The applicant resubmits a copy of the previously approved employment authorization card.

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act must establish that he or she before October 1, 2000 filed a written claim with the Attorney General for class membership in one 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 section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act and 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10.

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

The record shows that the applicant filed a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident, on May 4, 1988, as the first step in seeking legalization under section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 245A was added to the INA by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). The I-687 application was denied by the [REDACTED] California, on August 22, 1989 because of the applicant's failure to appear for scheduled interviews. The applicant filed an appeal, which was rejected as untimely by the Legalization Appeals Unit of the Office of Administrative Appeals in Washington, D.C., the AAO's predecessor office, on November 17, 1994.

There is no provision in the LIFE Act that authorizes the reopening or reconsideration of applications previously denied under IRCA. Nor does the applicant's prior IRCA application constitute a claim for class membership in one of the subsequent legalization class-action lawsuits, *CSS*, *LULAC*, or *Zambrano*. An alien must have filed a claim for class membership in one of those three lawsuits before October 1, 2000 to be eligible for permanent resident status under section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act (which was enacted on December 21, 2000).

The applicant did not assert in his LIFE application (Form I-485), nor has he submitted any documentary evidence, that he filed a claim for class membership in one of the legalization class-action lawsuits. All of the documentation submitted by the applicant in this proceeding relates to his earlier legalization application (Form I-687) under IRCA. Since the applicant had a pre-existing A-file from his IRCA application, any written claim for

class membership in *CSS*, *LULAC*, or *Zambrano* would almost certainly have been incorporated in the file. There was no such class membership claim in the applicant's file, or even a reference to any of the legalization class-action lawsuits, at the time the instant LIFE application was filed on May 24, 2002.

In this case, the applicant has failed to establish that he filed a written claim for class membership in one of the legalization class-action lawsuits, *CSS*, *LULAC* or *Zambrano*, before October 1, 2000, as required for him to be eligible for legalization under section 1104(b) the LIFE Act. Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

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