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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
MSC 02 255 60858

Office: ATLANTA

Date: DEC 02 2008

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:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. The file has been returned to the National Benefits Center. 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.

John F. Grissom, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The district director denied the application because the applicant had not demonstrated that he had continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status since before January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988. The director noted that the applicant's evidence was not sufficient to establish eligibility.

On appeal the applicant asks that CIS reconsider his application.

An applicant for permanent 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 May 4, 1988. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.11(b).

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act has the burden to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite periods, is admissible to the United States and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under this section. 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.12(e).

An applicant must establish eligibility by a preponderance of the evidence. 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.* 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 (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.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) regulations provide an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit to establish presence during the required period. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.15(b)(1); *see also* 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L). Such evidence may include employment records, tax records, utility bills, school records, hospital or medical records, or attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations so long as certain information is included. The regulations also permit the submission of affidavits and any other relevant

document, but applications submitted with unverifiable documentation may be denied. Documentation that does not cover the required period is not relevant to a determination of the alien's presence during the required period and will not be considered or accorded any evidentiary weight in these proceedings.

On June 23, 2005, the director sent the applicant a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), which stated that the evidence submitted by the applicant was insufficiently probative of continuous unlawful residence in the U.S. from prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988, and continuous physical presence in the U.S. from November 6, 1986 through May 4, 1988.

The applicant did not respond.

On July 25, 2005, the director denied the application because the applicant had failed to establish his continuous unlawful presence during the required period.

On appeal the applicant asks that CIS reconsider his application. Relevant to the period in question the record contains the following evidence:

- (1) Statement by [REDACTED] asserting the applicant came to the United States in "1980-1981".
- (2) Statement of [REDACTED] asserting the applicant migrated to the United States in 1981.
- (3) Statement by [REDACTED] stating that he "believed" that the applicant had been living in the United States since 1982
- (4) Statement of [REDACTED] asserting he has known the applicant since 1981.

As stated above, the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the *extent* of the documentation. The minimal evidence furnished cannot be considered extensive, and in such cases a negative inference regarding the claim may be made as stated in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.12(e).

In this case CIS records indicate that the applicant entered the United States on December 21, 1988, under an F-1 student visa. The record also contains a copy of the applicant's passport showing that it was issued in the Ivory Coast on June 1, 1988. This was not divulged by the applicant, and contradicts his assertions of a continuous unlawful residence during the required period. In light of this the applicant has submitted only four affidavits to cover the entire required period.

Documents which generically assert an affiant has known an applicant since a particular year are not sufficiently probative to support assertions of eligibility. Such casual knowledge of an applicant lacks the context to be sufficiently probative such that CIS can make an informed determination that the applicant has been residing continuously in an unlawful status for the duration of the required period. In this case the affidavits lack sufficient detail to demonstrate that the affiants have actual direct knowledge of the events to which they are testifying, and thus provide little or no weight the applicant's assertions of eligibility.

The general lack of detail concerning the applicant's whereabouts and activities during the required period reflects poorly on his assertions of continuous unlawful residence and presence. The applicant has made alleged a minimal body of facts in an attempt to satisfy the criteria for legalization, leaving CIS with no context in which to verify or corroborate his assertions. Without the context in which to view the applicants assertions they appear isolated factually, do not present an overall picture of the applicant's residence and presence, are not corroborated by other assertions contained in the record, and are not amenable to verification. When the facts asserted in the record are viewed in their totality with the evidence presented they are not sufficiently supported to establish eligibility.

In light of the evidence contradicting the applicant's assertions, the documents and affidavits submitted are insufficiently probative to establish the applicant's continuous unlawful residence during the required period in light of CIS records indicating he arrived in December 1988.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. An alien applying for LIFE Act legalization has the burden of proving that he or she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 245a of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

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