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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



B6

Date: FEB 01 2012

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER FILE:



IN RE:

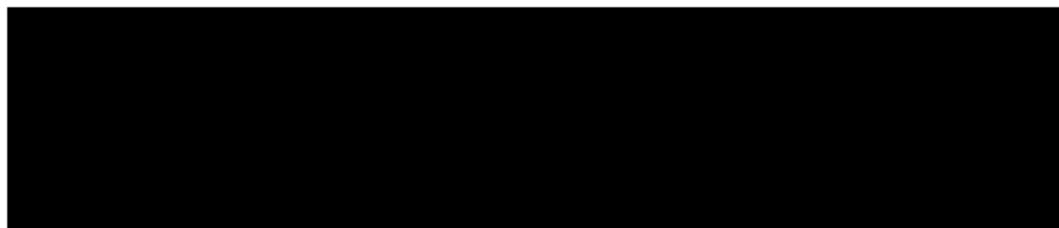
Petitioner:

Beneficiary:



PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker or Professional pursuant to Section 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

Thank you,

Elizabeth McCormack

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is a restaurant. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a food service manager or unit manager in Doraville, Georgia, pursuant to Section 203(b)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("the Act"), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A). As required by statute, the petition is accompanied by an ETA Form 9089, Application for Permanent Employment Certification, electronically approved by the United States Department of Labor (DOL). The director determined that the petitioner failed to demonstrate that the beneficiary satisfied the minimum level of education stated on the labor certification. Specifically, the director concluded that the beneficiary did not have a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. The director denied the petition on May 31, 2011.

The AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis. *See Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004).

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A)(i), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who are capable, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph, of performing skilled labor (requiring at least two years training or experience), not of a temporary nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States. Section 203(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A)(ii), also provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who hold baccalaureate degrees and are members of the professions.

To be eligible for approval, a beneficiary must have all the education, training, and experience specified on the labor certification as of the petition's priority date. *See Matter of Wing's Tea House*, 16 I&N 158 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1977). The priority date of the petition is November 7, 2007, which is the date the labor certification (ETA Form 9089) was accepted for processing by the DOL. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(d). The Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140) was filed on April 22, 2011.

Upon review of the entire record, including evidence submitted on appeal and in response to a Request for Evidence issued by the AAO, the AAO concludes that the petitioner has established that it is more likely than not that the beneficiary had all the education, training, and experience specified on the ETA Form 9089 as of November 7, 2007. The beneficiary may be classified as a professional because he has earned at least a bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent degree from a college or university. He may also be as a skilled worker since the job offered may be classified as such and his credentials match the terms of the labor certification. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(ii)(B)-(C). Accordingly, the petition is approved under section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A)(i).

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained, and the petition is approved.