

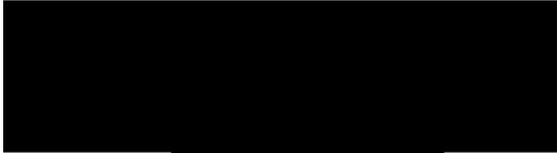


U.S. Citizenship
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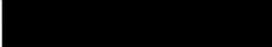
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FILE:



Office: NATIONAL BENEFITS CENTER

Date: MAR 30 2006

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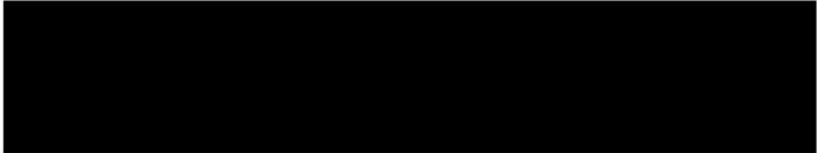
IN RE:

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:



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 your case 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, National Benefits Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

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, counsel includes copies of previously submitted documents as well as the applicant's separate application for legalization under the recent settlements reached in *CSS v. Ridge*, Case Nos. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and *Newman v. CIS*, Civ. No. [REDACTED]

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 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 inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.12(e). An alien applying for adjustment of status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act has the burden of proving his or her eligibility by a preponderance of the evidence.

With the Form I-485 LIFE Act application, the applicant submitted a photocopied notice from the Immigration and Naturalization Service's, or the Service's (now Citizenship and Immigration Services or CIS) District office in Houston, Texas that is dated October 5, 1993, which informed him that he had failed to provide evidence to establish his claim to class membership in the *CSS* lawsuit.

Although the director seemingly took issue with the credibility of the applicant's claim to have applied for class membership and the documentation submitted in support of that claim, the record contains no evidence to demonstrate that any effort was undertaken to verify the authenticity of the supporting document. In addition, the director failed to establish that the information in this document was inconsistent with the claims made by the applicant or that such information was false. If the director had questions regarding the credibility of the supporting document provided by the applicant, a request should have been issued to him to provide the original of the photocopied document. The applicant's own testimony taken in context with supporting evidence in certain cases can logically meet the preponderance of evidence standard. As stated in *Matter of E--M--*, 20 I&N Dec. 77 (Comm. 1989), when something is to be established by a preponderance of evidence, the applicant has to establish only that the asserted claim is probably true. Clearly, the Service document

cited above is a relevant document under 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14. As such, the applicant's claim that he applied for class membership must be considered in light of such testimony and evidence.

The independent and contemporaneous evidence contained in the record tends to support the assertion that the applicant put forth a claim to class membership prior to October 1, 2000. Therefore, it must be concluded that the applicant has demonstrated that he filed a written claim to class membership in one of the requisite legalization class-action lawsuits prior to October 1, 2000.

It must now be determined whether the applicant is otherwise eligible for permanent resident status under section 1140 of the LIFE Act. Accordingly, the matter will be forwarded to the appropriate district office for further processing and adjudication of the LIFE Act application.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The director shall forward this matter to the proper district office for the completion of adjudication of the application for permanent residence.