

identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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

PUBLIC COPY

B2

DATE: NOV 14 2011

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

FILE: [REDACTED]

IN RE:

Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

[REDACTED]

PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(1)(A)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[REDACTED]

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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Rhew".

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The employment-based immigrant 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 rejected as untimely filed.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party or the attorney or representative of record must file the complete appeal “with the office where the unfavorable decision was made within 30 days after service of the decision.” If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b). The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 1.1(h) explains that when the last day of a period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period shall run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. The date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i). The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) provides that an appeal which is not filed with the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed.

Moreover, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(1) provides:

General. Every application, petition, appeal, motion, request, or other document submitted on the form prescribed by this chapter shall be executed and filed in accordance with the instructions on the form, such instructions (including where an application or petition should be filed) being hereby incorporated into the particular section of the regulations in this chapter requiring its submission.

Page 3 of the instructions for the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, filed by the petitioner states: “You must file your appeal or motion with the USCIS [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] office that made the unfavorable decision within 30 calendar days after service of the decision (33 days if your decision was mailed).”

The record indicates that the Director, Texas Service Center, issued the decision on April 5, 2010. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that he had 33 days to file the appeal and that his appeal “must be filed with this office at the address at the top of this page.” Counsel, however, incorrectly submitted Form I-290B to the AAO on May 6, 2010. On May 7, 2010, the AAO returned Form I-290B with fee to counsel based on his incorrect submission of the appeal to the AAO. Counsel submitted the appeal to the Texas Service Center on May 12, 2010, 37 days after the decision was issued. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) states in pertinent part that “[a]n appeal which is not timely filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed.” Accordingly, as the appeal was not properly filed within the time allowed, it must be rejected.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. *See Matter of Liadov*, 23 I&N Dec. 990 (BIA 2006). Even if the appeal was delayed by the overnight delivery service, the error would not warrant special consideration of the appeal. *Id.*

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the Director of the Texas Service Center. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii).

The matter will therefore be returned to the director. If the director determines that the late appeal meets the requirements of a motion, the motion shall be granted and a new decision will be issued.

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.