



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

B2

[REDACTED]

DATE: **DEC 11 2012** Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER [REDACTED]

IN RE: [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:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. Please note that all documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please also note that any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Rosenberg".

Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied the employment-based immigrant visa petition, which is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The AAO will withdraw the director's decision; however, because the petition is not approvable, it is remanded for further action and consideration.

The petitioner seeks classification as an "alien of extraordinary ability" in athletics, pursuant to section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(1)(A). The director determined the petitioner had not established the sustained national or international acclaim of the beneficiary necessary to qualify for classification as an alien of extraordinary ability. The director's decision also stated that the petitioner failed to respond to the director's notice of intent to deny.

On appeal, counsel asserts that a response was timely filed. The record contains evidence that the petitioner did respond to the director's notice, specifically a copy of the response and a certified mail postal receipt showing that the director received the response on November 17, 2011. As the director failed to consider the submitted evidence, this matter will be remanded for a full adjudication of the petition on the merits.

The director must issue a new denial notice, containing specific findings that will afford the petitioner the opportunity to present a meaningful appeal. As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

ORDER: The director's decision is withdrawn; however, the petition is currently unapprovable, and therefore the AAO may not approve the petition at this time. Because the petition is not approvable, the petition is remanded to the director for issuance of a new, detailed decision which, if adverse to the petitioner, is to be certified to the Administrative Appeals Office for review.