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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



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FILE:



Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

Date: **MAR 12 2010**

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IN RE:

Petitioner:

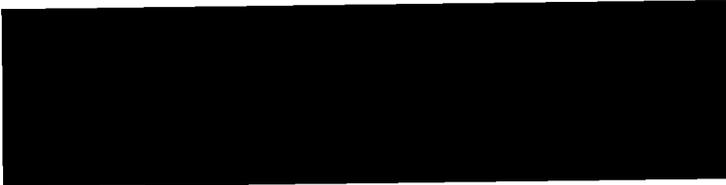


Beneficiary:

PETITION:

Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Member of the Professions Holding an Advanced Degree or an Alien of Exceptional Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed; however, the matter will be remanded as a motion to reopen and reconsider.

The petitioner claims to be a computer engineering business. It seeks to permanently employ the beneficiary in the United States as a computer systems analyst. The petitioner requested classification of the beneficiary as an advanced degree professional pursuant to section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2).¹ The petition is accompanied by an ETA Form 9089, Application for Permanent Employment Certification (labor certification), certified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The director denied the petition on December 17, 2008. The decision states that the petitioner failed to establish that the beneficiary possesses a foreign degree that is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree, as required by the requested immigrant visa preference category and the terms of the job offer set forth on the labor certification. The director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal.

Counsel filed the instant appeal on January 21, 2009, 35 days after the decision was issued. In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party must file the complete appeal within 30 days after service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b). The date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i). Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) states that "[a]n appeal which is not timely filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed."

Nevertheless, 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. A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be proved in the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2). A motion to reconsider must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions to establish that the decision was based on an incorrect application of law or USCIS policy. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3). In addition, a motion to reconsider must establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record

¹Section 203(b)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2), provides immigrant classification to members of the professions holding advanced degrees. There is no evidence in the record of proceeding that the beneficiary possesses exceptional ability in the sciences, arts or business. Accordingly, consideration of the petition will be limited to whether the beneficiary is eligible for classification as a member of the professions holding an advanced degree.

at the time of the initial decision. *Id.* A motion that does not meet applicable requirements shall be dismissed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(4).

The supporting evidence and arguments submitted by counsel with the untimely appeal are sufficient to meet the requirements of a motion to reopen and reconsider. Therefore, the case will be remanded for further consideration.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected. The petition is remanded to the director as a motion to reopen and reconsider for further action in accordance with the foregoing and entry of a new decision.