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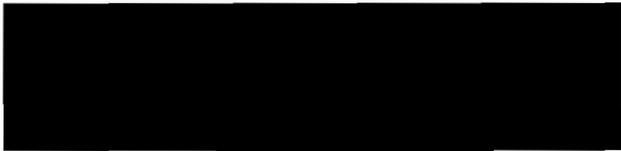
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:



Office: HOUSTON, TX

Date:

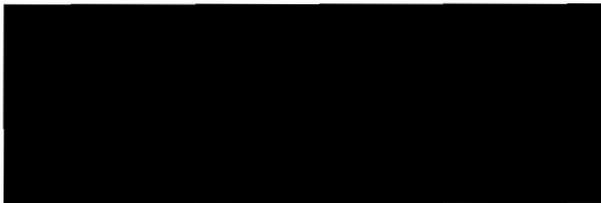
FEB 25 2010

IN RE:



APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under Section 201 of the Nationality Act of 1940, 8 U.S.C. § 601 (1941)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. 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 \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the District Director, Houston, Texas, 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 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. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The record indicates that the district director issued the decision on July 14, 2009. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the applicant that he had 33 days to file the appeal, and that the appeal should not be sent directly to the AAO. *See* Decision of the District Director. The Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal, was erroneously filed with the AAO and not received by the appropriate office until August 31, 2009, which was more than 33 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed and must be rejected.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected.