(b)(6)

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

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Date: JAN 3 1 2014 Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER FILE:

IN RE:

APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under section 212(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(h) and section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) in your case.

This is a non-precedent decision. The AAO does not announce new constructions of law nor establish agency policy through non-precedent decisions. If you believe the AAO incorrectly applied current law or policy to your case or if you seek to present new facts for consideration, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen, respectively. Any motion must be filed on a Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) within 33 days of the date of this decision. **Please review the Form I-290B instructions at http://www.uscis.gov/forms for the latest information on fee, filing location, and other requirements.** *See also* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file a motion directly with the AAO.**

Thank you,

Michael Shumway

Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Colombia who was found to be inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II), for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and seeking readmission within 10 years of her last departure from the United States. In a decision dated April 12, 2013, the Director found that the applicant had shown extreme hardship to her U.S. citizen spouse if he relocated to Colombia, but did not show extreme hardship upon separation and, as a result, did not meet the requirements for a waiver. The applicant was also found to be inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(ii), for having attempted to procure admission to the United States by falsely claiming to be a U.S. citizen. The Director noted that there is no waiver or relief for this inadmissibility under the Act. The applicant's waiver application was denied accordingly. The applicant has a U.S. citizen spouse and a U.S citizen daughter.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the Director's finding of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act is inconsistent with the facts in the applicant's case and the determination by the Department of State that the applicant made only a material misrepresentation under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Act. Counsel also states that the Director abused his discretion in his evaluation of hardship to the applicant's spouse.

In support of this assertion, counsel submits the Department of State refusal worksheet in the applicant's case, dated November 15, 2011. The entire record was reviewed and considered in rendering a decision on the appeal.

Section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act provides, in pertinent part:

> (i) Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other benefit provided under this Act is inadmissible.
>
> (ii) Falsely claiming citizenship. –
>
> (I) In General –
>
> Any alien who falsely represents, or has falsely represented, himself or herself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under this Act . . . is inadmissible.
>
> . . . .

(iii) Waiver authorized. – For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (i).

Section 212(i) of the Act provides:

(1) The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary)] may, in the discretion of the Attorney General [Secretary], waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an alien who is the spouse, son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General [Secretary] that the refusal of admission to the United States of such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such an alien.

The record clearly indicates that the applicant claimed to be a U.S. citizen in an attempt to gain admission to the United States. On February 10, 2010, at the the applicant made an oral claim to U.S. citizenship. The record indicates that the applicant was questioned about her citizenship as she attempted to board an airplane bound for Atlanta, Georgia. When questioned, she first stated that she was a lawful permanent resident and then when asked to present her lawful permanent resident card, she stated twice that she was a U.S. citizen. The record contains a Withdrawal of Application for Admission/Consular Notification (Form I-275) and a sworn statement taken from the applicant detailing this incident.

The AAO notes that aliens making false claims to U.S. citizenship on or after September 30, 1996 are ineligible to apply for a Form I-601 waiver. *See* Sections 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) and (iii) of the Act.

> In considering a case where a false claim to U.S. citizenship has been made, Service [CIS] officers should review the information on the alien to determine whether the false claim to U.S. citizenship was made before, on, or after September 30, 1996. If the false claim was made before the enactment of IIRIRA, Service [CIS] officers should then determine whether (1) the false claim was made to procure an immigration benefit under the Act; and (2) whether such claim was made before a U.S. Government official. If these two additional requirements are met, the alien should be inadmissible under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Act and advised of the waiver requirements under section 212(i) of the Act.

Memorandum by Joseph R. Greene, Acting Associate Commissioner, Office of Programs, Immigration and Naturalization Service, dated April 8, 1998 at 3. Because the applicant's false claim to U.S. citizenship occurred after September 30, 1996, the Department of State erred in finding the applicant eligible for a waiver pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act. No waiver is available for a violation of section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii)(I) and the record fails to demonstrate that the applicant qualifies for the exception described in section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii)(II). As the applicant's inadmissibility under

section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii)(I) statutorily bars her admission to the United States, no purpose would be served in discussing her inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act. In proceedings for an application for a waiver of grounds of inadmissibility the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.