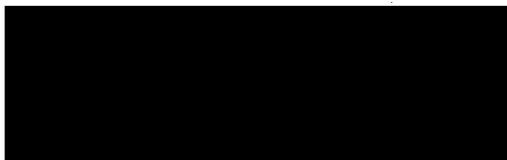


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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: MAR 12 2007

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after
Deportation or Removal under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and
Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) was denied by the Director, California 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 Guatemala who claims to have entered the United States without a lawful admission or parole on November 10, 1994. On September 22, 1995, the applicant filed an Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal (Form I-589) with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)). On October 30, 1995, the applicant was interviewed for asylum status. Her application was referred to the immigration court and on June 11, 1996, an Order to Show Cause (OSC) for a hearing before an immigration judge was served on her. On October 16, 1996, the applicant failed to appear for the deportation hearing and she was subsequently ordered removed, *in absentia*, by an immigration judge pursuant to section 241(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) for having entered the United States without inspection. On March 6, 1997, a Warrant of Removal/Deportation (Form I-205) was issued and a Notice to Deportable Alien (Form I-166) was forwarded to the applicant requesting that she appear at the Atlanta District Office in order to be removed from the United States. The applicant failed to surrender for removal or depart from the United States and is, therefore, inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii). The applicant seeks permission to reapply for admission into the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii), in order to remain in the United States.

The Director determined that the unfavorable factors in the applicant's case outweighed the favorable factors and denied the Form I-212 accordingly. *See Director's Decision* dated April 7, 2006.

Section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act states in pertinent part:

(A) Certain aliens previously removed.-

(ii) Other aliens.- Any alien not described in clause (i) who-

(I) has been ordered removed under section 240 or any other provision of law, or

(II) departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding, and seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal (or within 20 years of such date in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.

(iii) Exception.- Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission within a period if, prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Attorney General [now Secretary, Homeland Security, "Secretary"] has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

A review of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) amendments to the Act and prior statutes and case law regarding permission to reapply for admission, reflects that Congress has; (1) increased the bar to admissibility and the waiting period from 5 to 10 years in most instances and to 20 years in others; (2) has added a bar to admissibility for aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States; (3) has imposed a permanent bar to admission for aliens who have been ordered removed and who subsequently enter or attempt to enter the United States without being lawfully admitted. It is concluded that Congress has placed a high priority on deterring aliens from overstaying their authorized period of stay and/or from being present in the United States without a lawful admission or parole.

On appeal, the applicant states that she applied for the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). In addition, the applicant states that the law does not apply to an individual who is a class action member or an "ABC" member. Finally, on the Notice of Appeal to the AAO (Form I-290B) the applicant states that she will be submitting a brief and/or evidence to the AAO within 30 days.

The appeal was filed on April 19, 2006, and to this date, approximately one year later, no documentation has been received by the AAO. Therefore, the AAO will adjudicate the appeal based on the documentation contained in the record of proceeding.

The proceeding in the present case is for an application for permission to reapply for admission into the United States after deportation or removal and, therefore, the AAO will not discuss the applicant's eligibility for NACARA. The AAO notes that the applicant did not provide any documentary evidence to prove that she applied for NACARA. This proceeding is limited to the issue of whether or not the applicant meets the requirements necessary for the ground of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii) of the Act to be waived. This is the only issue that will be discussed.

In *Matter of Tin*, 14 I&N Dec. 371 (Reg. Comm. 1973), the Regional Commissioner listed the following factors to be considered in the adjudication of a Form I-212 Application for Permission to Reapply After Deportation:

The basis for deportation; recency of deportation; length of residence in the United States; applicant's moral character; his respect for law and order; evidence of reformation and rehabilitation; family responsibilities; any inadmissibility under other sections of law; hardship involved to himself and others; and the need for his services in the United States.

In *Tin*, the Regional Commissioner noted that the applicant had gained an equity (job experience) while being unlawfully present in the U.S. The Regional Commissioner then stated that the alien had obtained an advantage over aliens seeking visa issuance abroad or who abide by the terms of their admission while in this country, and he concluded that approval of an application for permission to reapply for admission would condone the alien's acts and could encourage others to enter the United States to work unlawfully. *Id.*

Matter of Lee, 17 I&N Dec. 275 (Comm. 1978) further held that a record of immigration violations, standing alone, did not conclusively support a finding of a lack of good moral character. *Matter of Lee* at 278. *Lee* additionally held that:

[T]he recency of deportation can only be considered when there is a finding of poor moral character based on moral turpitude in the conduct and attitude of a person which evinces a

callous conscience [toward the violation of immigration laws] In all other instances when the cause of deportation has been removed and the person now appears eligible for issuance of a visa, the time factor should not be considered. *Id.*

The AAO finds that the favorable factor in this case is the absence of any criminal record. The AAO notes that a sister is indicated as residing in the United States, however, there is no information regarding the sister's immigration status, nor does the applicant have any application or petition filed on her behalf pending with CIS.

The AAO finds that the unfavorable factors in this case include the applicant's initial illegal entry into the United States, her failure to appear for deportation proceedings, her employment without authorization and her lengthy presence in the United States without a lawful admission or parole. The Commissioner stated in *Matter of Lee, supra*, that residence in the United States could be considered a positive factor only where that residence is pursuant to a legal admission or adjustment of status as a permanent resident. To reward a person for remaining in the United States in violation of law would seriously threaten the structure of all laws pertaining to immigration.

The applicant's actions in this matter cannot be condoned. The applicant has not established by supporting evidence that the favorable factors outweigh the unfavorable factors.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, provides that the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish eligibility for the benefit sought. After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the applicant has failed to establish that a favorable exercise of the Secretary's discretion is warranted. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.