

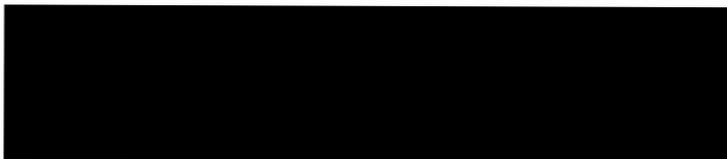
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:



Office: LOS ANGELES

Date:

APR 22 2009

MSC-04-296-11041

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of
Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, your file has been returned to the National Benefits Center. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

John F. Grissom

Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreements reached in *Catholic Social Services, Inc., et al., v. Ridge, et al.*, CIV. NO. S-86-1343-LKK (E.D. Cal) January 23, 2004, or *Felicity Mary Newman, et al., v. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services, et al.*, CIV. NO. 87-4757-WDK (C.D. Cal) February 17, 2004, (CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements) was denied by the District Director, Los Angeles. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected and the file will be returned to the director for further action and consideration.

The applicant submitted a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), and a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman Class Membership Worksheet. The director determined that the applicant has not established that she is eligible for class membership pursuant to the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements and denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that she is eligible to apply for legalization. The applicant states further that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) never questioned her about when she was turned away and when she tried to apply for legalization.

Under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, if the director finds that an applicant is ineligible for class membership, the director must first issue a notice of intent to deny, which explains any perceived deficiency in the applicant's Class Member Application and provide the applicant 30 days to submit additional written evidence or information to remedy the perceived deficiency. Once the applicant has had an opportunity to respond to any such notice, if the applicant has not overcome the director's finding then the director must issue a written decision to deny an application for class membership to both counsel and the applicant, with a copy to class counsel. The notice shall explain the reason for the denial of the application, and notify the applicant of his or her right to seek review of such denial by a Special Master. See CSS Settlement Agreement paragraph 8 at page 5; Newman Settlement Agreement paragraph 8 at page 7.

On May 3, 2007, the director issued a notice of intent to deny (NOID) to the applicant. The director found that upon review of the applicant's file and the documents contained therein, she is not eligible for CSS/Newman class membership. The applicant was afforded 30 days to respond to the notice. The applicant responded to the NOID with an affidavit from [REDACTED] attesting to the applicant being turned away by CIS when she tried to apply for legalization in March of 1988. On May 22, 2007, the applicant received a denial notice stating that she has not overcome the basis for the notice of intent to deny. The director determined that the applicant does not qualify for CSS/Newman class membership. The director correctly advised the applicant to file an appeal with a Special Master appointed under the terms of the CSS/Newman settlement agreement. Counsel on behalf of the applicant subsequently filed an appeal with the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO).

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(p), the AAO has jurisdiction over the denial of an Application for Temporary Resident Status under section 245A of the Act. Here, the application was denied based on the applicant's failure to establish Class Membership under the CSS/Newman

Settlement Agreements. Therefore, the AAO is without authority to review the denial of the application. The CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements stipulate that an applicant should be notified of his or her right to seek review of the denial of his Class Membership Application by a Special Master.

Since the AAO is without authority to review the denial of the application, the appeal must be rejected. However, the director is not constrained from reopening the matter *sua sponte* pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(q).

ORDER: The appeal is rejected and the file is returned to the director for further action and consideration pursuant to the above.