

identify...
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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
and Immigration
Services

DUPLICATE COPY



L1

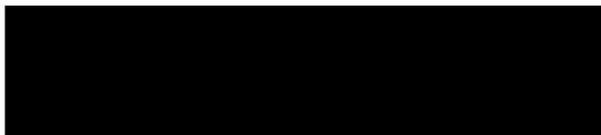
FILE: MSC 05 264 10719 Office: NEW YORK Date: **NOV 03 2009**

IN RE: Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the 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. The file has been returned to the National Benefits Center. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, 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.

Perry Rhew
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 Director, New York, New York, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director determined that the applicant had not established that he resided in the United States in a continuous unlawful status from before January 1, 1982 through the date of attempted filing during the original one-year application period that ended on May 4, 1988.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has submitted sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for Temporary Resident Status. The applicant does not submit additional evidence on appeal.

An applicant for temporary resident status – under section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) – must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. *See* section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). The applicant must also establish that he or she has been continuously physically present in the United States since November 6, 1986. *See* section 245A(a)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(3). The regulations clarify that the applicant must have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1).

For purposes of establishing residence and physical presence under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, the term “until the date of filing” in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1) means until the date the applicant attempted to file a completed Form I-687 application and fee or was caused not to timely file during the original legalization application period of May 5, 1987 to May 4, 1988. *See* CSS Settlement Agreement, paragraph 11 at page 6; Newman Settlement Agreement, paragraph 11 at page 10.

The applicant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite period, is admissible to the United States under the provisions of section 245A of the Act, and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status. The inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5).

Although the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3) provides an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit in support of his or her claim of continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since prior to January 1, 1982, the submission of any other relevant document is permitted pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

The “preponderance of the evidence” standard requires that the evidence demonstrate that the applicant's claim is “probably true,” where the determination of “truth” is made based on the factual circumstances of each individual case. *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). In evaluating the evidence, *Matter of E-M-* also stated that “[t]ruth is to be determined not by the

quantity of evidence alone but by its quality.” *Id.* at 80. Thus, in adjudicating the application pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence standard, the director must examine each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, to determine whether the fact to be proven is probably true.

Even if the director has some doubt as to the truth, if the applicant submits relevant, probative, and credible evidence that leads the director to believe that the claim is “probably true” or “more likely than not,” the applicant has satisfied the standard of proof. *See U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421, 431 (1987) (defining “more likely than not” as a greater than 50 percent probability of something occurring). If the director can articulate a material doubt, it is appropriate for the director to either request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, deny the application or petition.

Although the regulations provide an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit, the list also permits the submission of affidavits and any other relevant document. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(i) states that letters from employers attesting to an applicant’s employment must: provide the applicant’s address at the time of employment; identify the exact period of employment; show periods of layoff; state the applicant’s duties; declare whether the information was taken from company records; and identify the location of such company records and state whether such records are accessible or in the alternative state the reason why such records are unavailable.

The applicant is a native of Pakistan who claims to have resided in the United States since October 1981. He filed an application for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act (Form I-687), together with a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman (LULAC) Class Membership Worksheet, on June 21, 2005.

In the Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), dated March 22, 2006, the director stated that the applicant failed to submit sufficient evidence demonstrating his continuous unlawful residence, and continuous physical presence, in the United States during the requisite period. The director noted that the applicant submitted affidavits that were neither credible nor amenable to verification. The director granted the applicant thirty (30) days to submit additional evidence.

In the Notice of Decision, dated September 25, 2007, the director denied the instant application based on the reasons stated in the NOID. The director noted that the applicant responded to the NOID but failed to overcome the reasons for denial stated in the NOID. The director also noted that in response to the NOID, the applicant submitted a letter, two affidavits, and a lease, that were, purportedly, written by different individuals, but the handwriting appears to be the same.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to demonstrate that he continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status from before January 1, 1982 through the date he attempted to file a Form I-687 during the original one-year

application period that ended on May 4, 1988. After reviewing the entire record, the AAO determines that he has not.

The evidence provided by the applicant consists of the following:

Affidavits

- 1) An affidavit from [REDACTED] attesting that he has known the applicant to have resided in the United States since 1981. [REDACTED] also attests that the applicant departed the United States in December 1987, to visit Pakistan, and returned in January 1988. The affiant, however, does not provide any additional details, such as to indicate how he dates his acquaintance with the applicant; and, whether and how frequently he had contact with the applicant in the United States since 1981.
- 2) Two affidavits from [REDACTED], and affidavits from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In his first affidavit, dated December 12, 2005, [REDACTED] attests that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED] during the period from January 1982 to March 1983. However, in his second affidavit, dated April 12, 2006, [REDACTED] attests that he and the applicant resided together at [REDACTED] from October 1981 to February 1982. [REDACTED] attests that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED], during the period from March 1983 to May 1985; [REDACTED] attests that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED] from 1985 to 1988; and, [REDACTED] attests that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED] from 1988 to 2001. It is noted, however, that the affiants do not provide details, such as to indicate the terms of the claimed rental arrangement, and how the shared rental arrangement began, or how it ended.

In addition, the applicant submitted a photocopy of an Apartment Lease, dated January 10, 1981, showing [REDACTED] as tenant, and a lease period beginning October 1, 1981 and ending October 31, 1983, for an apartment located at [REDACTED]

Contrary to his assertion, the applicant has provided questionable documentation. Specifically, the apartment lease and the affidavits from [REDACTED] are questionable. It is noted that in his affidavit [REDACTED] states that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED] during the period from January 1982 to March 1983. However, the apartment lease provided is for an apartment located at [REDACTED]. It is also noted that [REDACTED] attests that he had resided at [REDACTED] "During 1981 and 1984." [REDACTED] does not indicate where he resided during 1982 or in 1983. Yet, he attests that the applicant resided with him at [REDACTED] from January 1982 to March 1983.

These discrepancies cast doubt on whether the evidence provided, including affidavits, are genuine. In addition, as discussed above, the affidavits which the applicant submitted in an attempt to establish his continuous residence, lack essential details. As such, the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the requisite continuous residence. The applicant has not submitted any

additional evidence in support of his claim that he entered the United States prior to January 1, 1982, and he had resided continuously in the United States during the entire requisite period.

Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988). The applicant has failed to submit any objective evidence to explain or justify the discrepancies in his testimony and in the record. Therefore, the reliability of the remaining evidence offered by the applicant is suspect and it must be concluded that the applicant has failed to establish that he continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status during the requisite period.

As stated previously, the evidence must be evaluated not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5), the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification.

Based on the foregoing analysis of the evidence, the AAO concludes that the applicant has failed to establish his continuous unlawful residence in the United States throughout the requisite period. Thus, the record does not establish that the applicant entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and resided continuously in the United States in an unlawful status from that date through the date he attempted to file a Form I-687 during the original one-year application period that ended on May 4, 1988. Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for temporary resident status under section 245A(a)(2) the Act.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.