

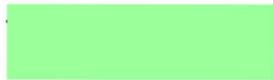


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Date: **JAN 28 2013**

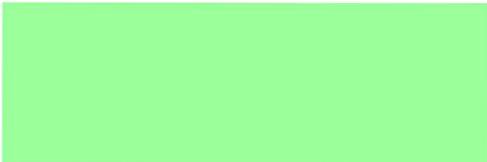
Office: HOUSTON

FILE: 

IN RE: Applicant: 

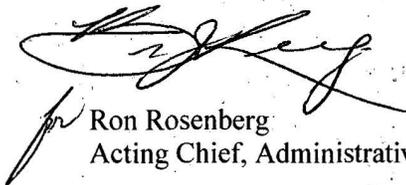
APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, all documents have been returned to the National Benefits Center. 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. If your appeal was sustained or remanded for further action, you will be contacted.


Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status filed 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, and *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), under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act) was initially approved. Subsequently, the director of the Houston office terminated the applicant's temporary resident status. The decision to terminate is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The director determined that the applicant had not established by a preponderance of the evidence that he had continuously resided in the United States for the duration of the requisite period. The director terminated the applicant's temporary resident status, finding that the applicant had not met his burden of proof and was, therefore, not eligible to adjust to temporary resident status.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant submits a brief and additional evidence.

An applicant for temporary resident status 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. 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. 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. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1).

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). To meet his or her burden of proof, an applicant must provide evidence of eligibility apart from the applicant's own testimony. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(6).

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.* 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 petitioner 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 or petitioner has satisfied the standard of proof. See *U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421 (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.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to demonstrate that he entered before 1982 and resided in the United States for the requisite period. In this case, the submitted evidence is relevant, probative and credible.

In a notice of intent to terminate the applicant's temporary resident status (NOIT), the director critiqued the applicant's evidence. The director noted that an employment statement was not written on company letterhead. Although the regulations state that such statements should be on company letterhead, nonconforming statements may be given some weight. The director repeatedly stated that affiants failed to provide "any tangible evidence to support [their] claim[s]." There is no requirement that affiants submit tangible evidence in support of their claims. The director repeatedly stated that the affiants provided information that contradicted the applicant's Form I-687, but failed to state how they contradicted it. Finally, the director cited a sworn statement from the applicant. In review, the AAO determines that the director did not obtain a sworn statement, but instead wrote notes indicating that the applicant said he paid one notary to notarize nine affidavits outside the presence of the affiants.

The applicant has established by a preponderance of the evidence that he entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and maintained continuous, unlawful residence for the duration of the requisite period. Consequently, the applicant has overcome the particular basis of denial cited by the director.

The AAO notes that the record of proceeding contains information that the applicant has one misdemeanor conviction dated June 25, 1979.¹ One misdemeanor conviction does not disqualify the applicant for temporary or permanent resident status.

The appeal will be sustained. The applicant's temporary resident status is restored. The director shall reopen the applicant's Form I-698 application for adjustment from temporary to permanent resident status.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained.

¹ The applicant was convicted of violating section 1325 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.