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FILE:

MSC 03 249 63269

Office: NATIONAL BENEFITS CENTER

Date: JUN 12 2006

IN RE:

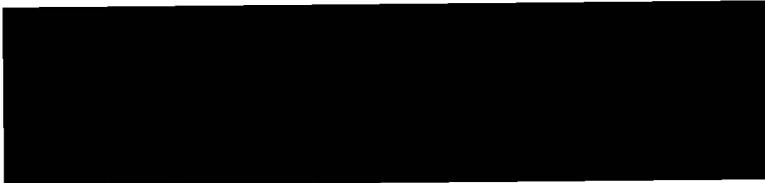
Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by Life Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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 permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the Director, National Benefits Center, reopened, and denied again by said Director. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director concluded the applicant had not established that he had applied for class membership in any of the requisite legalization class-action lawsuits prior to October 1, 2000 and, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, counsel argues the director's decision was in violation of the applicant's due process as the notices sent to the applicant's address of record contained another individual's information. Counsel further argues that he did not receive either notice as required by the regulation.

The record reflects that on November 1, 2004, the director withdrew his decision and *sua sponte* reopened the proceedings. A Notice of Intent to Deny was subsequently issued with the applicant's correct information and sent to counsel's address of record. The record contains no response from counsel. In addition, neither counsel nor the applicant has addressed the director's subsequent decision.

An applicant for permanent resident status under the LIFE Act must establish that before October 1, 2000, he or she filed a written claim with the Attorney General for class membership in any of the following legalization class-action lawsuits: *Catholic Social Services, Inc. v. Meese, vacated sub nom. Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993) (CSS), *League of United Latin American Citizens v. INS, vacated sub nom. Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993) (LULAC), or *Zambrano v. INS, vacated sub nom. Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Zambrano*, 509 U.S. 918 (1993) (Zambrano). See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10.

The regulations provide an illustrative list of documents that an applicant may submit to establish that he or she filed a written claim for class membership before October 1, 2000. Those regulations also permit the submission of "[a]ny other relevant document(s)." See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14.

The record reflects that the applicant timely filed a Form I-687 Application for Status as a Temporary Resident under section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) on November 16, 1987, and this application was subsequently denied on May 7, 1991. The applicant's appeal from the denial of the legalization application was subsequently dismissed by the AAO on October 25, 1994. The applicant subsequently filed a motion to reopen, which was rejected by the AAO on July 8, 1996. Section 1104 of the LIFE Act contains no provision allowing for the reopening and reconsideration of the matter, as the original application for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act had been filed by the applicant in a timely manner.

The legalization class-action lawsuits mentioned above relate to aliens who claim they did not file applications in the 1987-1988 period because they were improperly dissuaded by the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (legacy INS). The applicant has provided no explanation as to why he would have sought membership in any of the class-action lawsuits as he had filed a timely application that had been *accepted* by the legacy INS in 1987.

No evidence has been presented which would suggest that the applicant had attempted to file a subsequent Form I-687 Application. The applicant has not provided any documents, which would establish that he filed a timely written claim for class membership. Also, there are no records within Citizenship and Immigration Services, which demonstrate that the applicant applied for class membership. Given that, the applicant is ineligible for permanent residence under section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

Finally, it is noted that the applicant's Form I-687 application was denied based on the applicant's four misdemeanor convictions in the United States. The applicant's convictions were subsequently expunged. However, under the statutory definition of "conviction" provided at Section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(48)(A), no effect is to be given, in immigration proceedings, to a state action which purports to expunge, dismiss, cancel, vacate, discharge, or otherwise remove a guilty plea or other record of guilt or conviction. The Board of Immigration Appeal (BIA) found that there is a significant distinction between convictions vacated on the basis of a procedural or substantive defect in the underlying proceedings and those vacated because of post-conviction events, such as rehabilitation or immigration hardships. Thus, if a court with jurisdiction vacates a conviction based on a defect in the underlying criminal proceedings, the respondent no longer has a "conviction" within the meaning of section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act. If, however, a court vacates a conviction for reasons unrelated to the merits of the underlying criminal proceedings, the respondent remains "convicted" for immigration purposes. *Matter of Pickering*, 23 I&N Dec. 621 (BIA 2003).

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