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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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FILE:

MSC 02 142 61601

Office: NEW YORK

Date:

NOV 28 2008

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. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Grissom".

John Grissom, Acting Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** On July 14, 2007, the Director, New York, denied the application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application, finding that the applicant did not establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that he entered the United States before January 1, 1982, and resided continuously in the United States, prior to January 1, 1982, and through May 4, 1988. The director called into question the validity of several documents the applicant submitted, including a letter from the Sikh Cultural Society, an employment letter from [REDACTED] and an employment letter from [REDACTED].

On appeal, counsel for the applicant asserts that, because of the passage of time, the affidavits the applicant submitted that attest to his presence during the requisite period are sufficient to meet his burden of proof.

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE 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 May 4, 1988. See § 1104(c)(2)(B) of the LIFE Act and 8 C.F.R. § 245a.11(b). The applicant has the burden to establish 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 and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under this section. 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.12(e).

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 states 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 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 or applicant 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.

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 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). See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.15(b). 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.12(f). Affidavits indicating specific, personal knowledge of the applicant's whereabouts during the relevant time period are given greater weight than fill-in-the-blank affidavits providing generic information.

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.

A LIFE Legalization applicant must also provide evidence establishing that, before October 1, 2000, he or she was a class member applicant in a legalization class-action lawsuit. See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14. In this case, the record reflects that the applicant applied for such class membership by submitting a "Form for Determination of Class Membership in *CSS v. Meese* [CSS lawsuit]," accompanied by a Form I-687 "Application for Status as a Temporary Resident (Under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act)" dated April 4, 1990.

On February 19, 2002, the applicant submitted the current application. On March 10, 2004, the applicant appeared for an interview based on the application.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to meet his burden of establishing by a preponderance of the evidence, that his claim of entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States during the requisite period is probably true. Upon examination of each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, the AAO finds that the applicant has failed to meet this burden.

The letters and affidavits the applicant submitted from [REDACTED] contain minimal details regarding any relationship with the applicant during the requisite period. Mr. [REDACTED] asserts that he met the applicant in December 1981 at a Sikh Temple in California but does not explain how he remembers that it was December 1981 when he met the applicant and does not provide any documentation to establish that he himself was residing in the United States at that time. While he asserts that he and the applicant saw each other frequently and spoke on the phone almost every day, he provides minimal details about the circumstances of the applicant's residence other than the address where he resided and the fact that he worked very hard at a farm. Although [REDACTED] states that he saw the applicant off at

the airport in 1981, he does not specify where in Canada, provide a specific date, or explain how he remembers it was 1981 when he saw the applicant off. In addition, he admits that he did not see the applicant again until 1986 and provides no details regarding the applicant's continuous residence during this time. Lacking such relevant detail, the letters and affidavits can be afforded only minimal weight as evidence of the applicant's residence in the United States for the requisite period.

The employment verification letters the applicant submitted from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can be given minimal weight as evidence of the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence because they lack sufficient detail and information required by the regulations. Specifically, the employers fail to provide the applicant's address at the time of his employment as required under 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(i). Under the same regulations, the employers also failed to declare which records the information was taken from, to identify the location of such records, and to state whether such records are accessible, or, in the alternative state the reason why such records are unavailable.

The two letters from the Sikh Cultural Society, Inc., can be given minimal evidentiary weight as they do not conform to the regulation at 245a.2(d)(3)(v). Specifically, the letters do not state the address where the applicant lived during the membership period and do not explain the origin of the information given.

The remaining evidence in the record is comprised of the applicant's statements and application forms, in which he claims to have first entered the United States without inspection in July 1981, and to have resided for the duration of the requisite period in New York. As noted above, to meet his burden of proof, the applicant must provide evidence of eligibility apart from his own testimony. The applicant has failed to do so. In this case, his assertions regarding his entry are not supported by any credible evidence in the record.

Having examined each piece of evidence, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, the AAO finds that the applicant has not shown by a preponderance of the evidence he entered into the United States before January 1, 1982, and that he resided continuously in an unlawful status for the requisite period.

The absence of sufficiently detailed and probative documentation to corroborate the applicant's claim of entry and continuous residence for the entire requisite period, detracts from the credibility of his claim. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.12(e), the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. Given the applicant's reliance on documentation that lacks relevant details and any probative evidence of his entry and residence in the United States from prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988, the applicant has failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he maintained continuous, unlawful residence in the United States as required for eligibility for adjustment to permanent resident status under section 1104(c)(2)(B)(i) of the LIFE Act.

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