



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS  
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Washington, D.C. 20536



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File: SRC 98 076 51489 Office: Texas Service Center

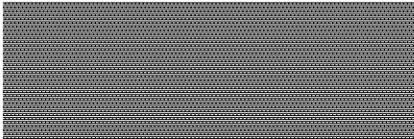
Date: JAN 31 2000

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

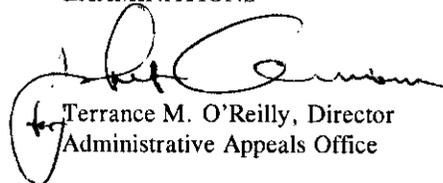
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,  
EXAMINATIONS

  
Terrance M. O'Reilly, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Associate Commissioner for Examinations. Counsel filed a second appeal which, in the interest of due process, was considered on certification pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.4. The matter is again before the Associate Commissioner on a motion to reopen. The motion will be granted and previous decisions of the director and the Associate Commissioner will be affirmed.

The petitioner is an ethnic daily newspaper with six employees and asserted gross annual income of \$100,000. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as an editor for a period of two years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary qualifies to perform services in a specialty occupation. The Associate Commissioner found that the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of the proffered position but also found that the proffered position is not a specialty occupation.

On motion, counsel reiterates his assertion that the proffered position is a specialty occupation and the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(B), the petitioner shall submit the following with an H-1B petition involving a specialty occupation:

1. A certification from the Secretary of Labor that the petitioner has filed a labor condition application with the Secretary,

2. A statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application for the duration of the alien's authorized period of stay, and

3. Evidence that the alien qualifies to perform services in the specialty occupation.

The petitioner has provided a certified labor condition application and a statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;

2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;

3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or

4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary's foreign education has been found by a credentials evaluation service to be equivalent to a baccalaureate degree in sociology conferred by a United States college or university. Accordingly, it is concluded that the petitioner has shown that the beneficiary qualifies to perform the duties of the proffered position.

Although the sole stated ground for denial has been overcome, the petition may not be approved. The term "specialty occupation" is defined at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(ii) as:

an occupation which requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge to fully perform the occupation in such fields of human

endeavor, including, but not limited to, architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts, and which requires the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;
3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The duties of the proffered position are described in pertinent part as follows:

The position being offered includes: writes leading or policy editorials or notifies editorial department head of position to be taken on specific public issues, and also writes about Korean art, culture.

The petitioner has failed to establish that any of the four factors enumerated above are present in this proceeding. The petitioner has not shown that it has, in the past, required the services of individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees in a specialized area for the proffered position. In addition, the petitioner has not shown that similar firms require the services of such individuals in parallel positions.

In these proceedings, the duties of the position are dispositive and not the job title. The proffered position appears to combine the duties of a reporter or correspondent with those of a writer or editor. The Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook (Handbook), 1996-1997 edition, at pages 183-184 finds no

requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specialized area for employment as a reporter or correspondent. Most employers prefer individuals with a bachelor's degree in journalism, but some hire graduates with other majors.

The Handbook at pages 185-186 also finds no requirement of a baccalaureate degree in a specialized area for employment as a writer or editor. A college degree is generally required. Although some employers look for a broad liberal arts background, most prefer to hire individuals with degrees in communications, journalism, or English. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the proffered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of regulations.

The Service notes its authority to affirm decisions which, though based on incorrect grounds, are deemed to be correct decisions on other grounds within its power to formulate. Helvering v. Gowran, 302 U.S. 238 (1937); Securities Comm'n v. Chenery Corp., 318 U.S. 86 (1943); and Chae-Sik Lee v. Kennedy, 294 F.2d 231 (D.C. Cir. 1961), cert. denied, 368 U.S. 926.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden. Accordingly, the decisions of the director and the Associate Commissioner will not be disturbed.

**ORDER:** The order of August 27, 1998 dismissing this appeal is affirmed.