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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

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ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE
425 Eye Street N.W.
BCIS, AAO, 20 Mass, 3/F
Washington, D.C. 20536

[REDACTED]

JUN 18 2013

File: SRC 02 228 52217 Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

[REDACTED]

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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[REDACTED]

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision 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.

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 that 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 bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) 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 that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a nursing school. The beneficiary is an artist. The petitioner seeks O-1 classification of the beneficiary as an alien with extraordinary ability in the arts under section 101(a)(15)(O)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), in order to employ her for one year as an art consultant at an annual salary of \$24,000.

The director denied the petition, finding that the petitioner had failed to establish that the beneficiary satisfies the standards for classification as an alien with extraordinary ability in the arts.

On appeal, counsel for the petitioner asserts that the beneficiary was previously classified as an O-1 alien of extraordinary ability on two prior occasions; therefore, the Bureau should approve the instant petition.

Section 101(a)(15)(O)(i) of the Act provides classification to a qualified alien who has extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim, whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation, and who seeks to enter the United States to continue work in the area of extraordinary ability.

The beneficiary is a 44-year old citizen of Venezuela. She has worked as an illustrator and a pottery instructor. She was previously classified as an O-1 alien to work as an illustrator at Pen & Ink, a printing and graphics company.

At issue is whether the petitioner has established that the beneficiary qualifies as an alien with extraordinary ability in the arts within the meaning of this provision.

8 C.F.R. §214.2(o)(3)(ii) defines, in pertinent part:

Arts includes any field of creative activity or endeavor such as, but not limited to, fine arts, visual arts, culinary arts, and performing arts.

Extraordinary ability in the field of arts means distinction. Distinction means a high level of achievement in the arts evidenced by a degree of skill of skill and recognition substantially above that ordinarily encountered to the extent that a person described as prominent is renowned, leading, or well

known in the field of arts.

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(o)(3)(iv) states that in order to qualify as an alien of extraordinary ability, the alien must be recognized as being prominent in his or her field of endeavor as demonstrated by the following:

(A) Evidence that the alien has been nominated for, or has been the recipient of, significant national or international awards or prizes in the particular field such as an Academy Award, an Emmy, a Grammy, or a Director's Guild Award; or

(B) At least three of the following forms of documentation:

(1) Evidence that the alien has performed, and will perform services as a lead or starring participant in productions or events that have a distinguished reputation as evidenced by critical reviews, advertisements, publicity releases, publications, contracts, or endorsements;

(2) Evidence that the alien has achieved national or international recognition for achievements evidenced by critical reviews or other published materials by or about the individual in major newspapers, trade journals, magazines, or other publications;

(3) Evidence that the alien has performed, and will perform, in a lead, starring, or critical role for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation evidenced by articles in newspapers, trade journals, publications, or testimonials;

(4) Evidence that the alien has a record of major commercial or critically acclaimed successes as evidenced by such indicators as title, rating, standing in the field, box office receipts, motion picture or television ratings, and other occupational achievements reported in trade journals, major newspapers, or other publications;

(5) Evidence that the alien has received significant recognition for achievements from organizations, critics, governmental agencies, or other recognized experts in the field in the alien is engaged. Such testimonials must be in a form clearly indicates the author's authority,

expertise, and knowledge of the alien's achievements; or

(6) Evidence that the alien has either commanded a high salary or will command a high salary or other substantial remuneration for services in relation to others in the field, as evidenced by contracts or other reliable evidence.

According to the petitioner's counsel, the beneficiary:

has had an exceptional career in the Arts. She has been featured in art galleries throughout Latin America and United States. She has won numerous awards and prizes and has been recognized in a recent University of Miami School of Nursing newsletter as an integral part of the Art Therapy Department.

The assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988); *Matter of Ramirez-Sanchez*, 17 I&N Dec. 503, 506 (BIA 1980). The petitioner failed to provide any corroborating evidence of the beneficiary's receipt of awards and prizes.

The record of proceeding contains no evidence that the beneficiary has either been nominated for, or received any significant national or international awards or prizes in her field of endeavor.

The beneficiary has participated in two art shows according to the evidence on the record.

The petitioner provided the Bureau with a newsletter that features an article about the petitioner's art therapy program.

The petitioner failed to establish that the beneficiary has earned a position of prominence in her field by virtue of her achievements. The article is not evidence that the beneficiary has achieved national or international acclaim for her achievements in her field of endeavor.

The Bureau is not required to approve applications or petitions where eligibility has not been demonstrated, merely because of prior approvals, which may have been erroneous. See *Matter of Church of Scientology International*, 19 I&N Dec. 593, 597 (Comm. 1988).

After a careful review of the entire record, it is concluded that the petitioner has not shown that the beneficiary is a person of extraordinary ability in the arts.

Beyond the decision of the director, the petitioner failed to establish that the beneficiary seeks to continue work in the area

of extraordinary ability as required by the Act. The petitioner submitted the beneficiary's job description that states that a significant portion of the beneficiary's job duties involves translating for patients and caregivers. Since the appeal will be dismissed for the reason stated above, this issue will not be discussed further.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.