

JUDGE PECHMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS  
PROJECT; TRAVELERS & IMMIGRANTS AID  
OF CHICAGO; INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
(San Francisco); JOHN DOES Nos. 1 through 8;  
JANE DOES Nos. 1 through 3,

Plaintiffs,

No. C88-00379MJP

vs.

THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT - CLASS  
ACTION

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP  
AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES; USCIS  
DIRECTOR EDUARDO AGUIRRE;  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;  
TOM RIDGE, SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT  
OF HOMELAND SECURITY; DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE; ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN  
ASHCROFT; DEPARTMENT OF STATE;  
COLIN POWELL, SECRETARY OF STATE,

Defendants.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a class action lawsuit brought on behalf of persons who are statutorily eligible for legalization pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), but who have been unlawfully denied access to legalization benefits by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) and now the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). They are subject to removal by the Department of Justice, and to being denied visas by the Department of State. In addition to individual plaintiffs, three immigrant legal services programing this action on behalf of their clients who have been injured by the challenged policies.

1 2. IRCA comprehensively amended the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), providing,  
2 *inter alia*, for a mechanism by which certain deportable aliens can legalize their status in the  
3 United States to permanent residents.

4 3. To qualify for legalization, a deportable alien must establish, *inter alia*, that s/he entered  
5 the United States “before January 1, 1982, and that he has resided continuously in the United  
6 States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the applications filed...” INS  
7 §245A(a)(2), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(a)(2).

8 4. If the applicant entered the United States with a non-immigrant visa before January 1,  
9 1982, the applicant must establish that (1) his or her period of authorized stay as a nonimmigrant  
10 expired before January 1, 1982 through the passage of time, or (2) his or her unlawful status (i.e.  
11 violation of non-immigrant status) was “known to the Government” as of such date. INA  
12 §245A(a)(2)(B), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(a)(2)(B).

13 5. The legalization provisions of IRCA created a right to apply for and have adjudicated  
14 applications for legalization during a twelve month period designated by the Attorney General.  
15 The Act provides mandatory benefits to those who meet the eligibility qualifications of the statute.  
16 The statute provides that “The Attorney General shall adjust the status” to lawful temporary  
17 resident.

18 6. Throughout the legalization application period, the Immigration and Naturalization Service  
19 (“INS”) implemented regulations, policies and practices deterring plaintiffs and class members  
20 who entered the United States on non-immigrant visas from applying for legalization and  
21 preventing such individuals from applying. INS had a policy of rejecting applications from  
22 individuals deemed to be statutorily ineligible for legalization. This “pre-filing rejection policy”  
23 was applied at the front desk of INS offices, and is known as “front-desking”. Pursuant to this  
24 “front-desking policy”, INS refused to accept applications from the class members of this lawsuit.  
25 INS broadly disseminated information that plaintiffs and class members were not eligible to  
26 participate in the legalization program. INS instructed and/or trained Qualified Designated  
27 Entities (QDE's), established by Congress for the purpose of accepting legalization applications  
28 pursuant to INA §245A(c), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(c), not to prepare or accept applications from

1 plaintiffs and class members. The INS's "front-desking policy" was well known throughout the  
2 legalization application period, and many class members failed to apply for legalization  
3 substantially because of the front-desking policy. INS's regulations, policies and practices  
4 prevented plaintiffs and class members from accessing the administrative and judicial review  
5 procedure established by IRCA.

6 7. On September 30, 1996, Congress enacted the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant  
7 Responsibility Act ("IIRIRA"), Pub.L.No. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009 (Sept. 30, 1996). According  
8 to §377 of IIRIRA:

9 [N]o court shall have jurisdiction of any cause of action or claim by or on behalf of any  
10 person asserting an interest under this section unless such person in fact filed an application  
11 under this section [during the application period from May 6, 1987 to May 5, 1988], or  
attempted to file a complete application and application fee with an authorized legalization  
officer of the Service but had the application and fee refused by that officer.

12 The INS has used this provision to unlawfully and unconstitutionally block class members from  
13 access to the IRCA legalization program.

14 8. The INS and defendants have unlawfully denied and has refused to grant the benefits of  
15 interim stays of deportation and work authorization to plaintiffs and class members who qualify  
16 for legalization as required by INA §245(c), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(e)(2).

17 9. The INS failed to properly and accurately publicize the benefits of the legalization  
18 program, as required INA §245A(I), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(I), and because of this failure plaintiffs and  
19 class members who would otherwise have completed the application process and been granted  
20 legalization did not complete the application process. Plaintiffs and class members were  
21 informed by INS and by its agents, including QDE's, that they did not qualify for legalization and  
22 were ineligible to apply. As a result, plaintiffs and class members were not legalized as Congress  
23 intended.

24 10. The INS and defendants have unlawfully withheld benefits of legalization from plaintiffs  
25 and class members who filed timely applications for legalization. INS and defendants have  
26 unlawfully refused to approve their applications, holding their applications in abeyance for the past  
27 fifteen years. During this time class members have been unable to travel outside the United States;  
28 they have been unable to obtain the permanent resident status to which they are entitled; they have

1 | been unable to rejoin and live with family members, as is permitted under the immigration laws of  
2 | the United States; and they have been denied administrative and judicial review.

3 | 11. The plaintiffs also complain that the INS and defendants have adjudicated legalization  
4 | applications in an unlawful manner. The procedures arbitrarily and without a rational basis as  
5 | applied to the plaintiffs and class members are substantially more burdensome than the procedures  
6 | applied to other similarly situated applicants for legalization. The INS and defendants have not  
7 | provided plaintiffs and class members a full and fair opportunity to establish that they are eligible  
8 | for legalization. The INS and defendants have not permitted plaintiffs and class members access to  
9 | relevant information included in agency files, information that would establish their eligibility for  
10 | legalization. In adjudicating legalization applications, the INS and defendants have arbitrarily and  
11 | without a rational basis imposed a burden of proof on plaintiffs and class members higher than the  
12 | "preponderance of the evidence" standard which is required under IRCA and the Administrative  
13 | Procedures Act, and which is used for other similarly situated applicants.

14 | 12. The plaintiffs also complain that timely applicants have had their applications wrongly  
15 | denied, leaving them without work authorization, and depriving them of ability to obtain legal  
16 | status for their family members.

17 | 13. The plaintiffs also complain that some class members who were approved initially for  
18 | legalization, have since been subject to unlawful termination of their status, based on known to the  
19 | government procedures challenged herein.

## 20 | **II. JURISDICTION**

21 | 14. This court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 (federal question jurisdiction);  
22 | 28 U.S.C. §2201 (jurisdiction to render declaratory judgments); 28 U.S.C. §1361 (mandamus  
23 | jurisdiction).

24 | 15. Declaratory judgment is sought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2202.

## 25 | **III. PARTIES**

26 | 16. Plaintiff NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT is a non-profit, legal services  
27 | organization in the State of Washington which provides immigration legal services to low-income  
28 | immigrants since [date]. It is the successor plaintiff organization to the WASHINGTON

1 ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES Legalization Project, having merged that project into its  
2 programs some years ago. Its predecessor, former Plaintiff NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT  
3 RIGHTS PROJECT, and its predecessor, Washington Association of Churches, had and have  
4 clients who have been injured by defendants in a variety of ways relating to “known to the  
5 government procedures,” including but not limited to, refusal to accept their applications, refusal  
6 to properly adjudicate their applications, denial of their applications, and refusal to provide  
7 application forms. Other clients did not file their applications substantially because of defendants’  
8 front desking policies. These clients are otherwise eligible for legalization but for the challenged  
9 practices of defendants. Plaintiff WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES sues on  
10 behalf of its clients.

11 17. Plaintiff TRAVELERS & IMMIGRANTS AID OF CHICAGO is an organization which  
12 provides, and at all relevant times has provided, legal and other assistance to individuals seeking  
13 immigration assistance. At all relevant times it was a Qualified Designated Entity (“QDE”)  
14 authorized by the INS to accept legalization applications and assist in the preparation of such  
15 applications. It has, since 1968, assisted immigrants and refugees in, *inter alia*, legal matters  
16 regarding their status under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Plaintiff TRAVELERS &  
17 IMMIGRANTS AID OF CHICAGO, during the legalization application period and at all subsequent  
18 times, it has been prohibited from accepting and forwarding to INS legalization applications from  
19 Plaintiffs and class members Plaintiff TRAVELERS & IMMIGRANTS AID OF CHICAGO has  
20 statutory right, pursuant to INA §245A©), to accept and forward to INS late applications from  
21 plaintiffs and class members. Otherwise eligible clients of the TRAVELERS & IMMIGRANTS  
22 AID OF CHICAGO are deemed ineligible for legalization under defendants’ challenged policies.  
23 Clients of Plaintiff TRAVELERS & IMMIGRANTS AID OF CHICAGO have been injured by  
24 defendants in a variety of ways relating to “known to the government procedures,” , including but  
25 not limited to, refusal to accept their applications, refusal to properly adjudicate their applications,  
26 denial of their applications, and refusal to provide application forms. Other clients did not file  
27 their applications substantially because of defendants’ front desking policies. These clients are  
28 otherwise eligible for legalization but for the challenged practices of defendants. TRAVELERS &

1 IMMIGRANTS AID OF CHICAGO on behalf of its members and clients.

2 18. Plaintiff INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE (SAN FRANCISCO) is a non-profit corporation  
3 dedicated, inter alia, to protecting the social and legal rights of immigrants, including immigrants  
4 seeking legalization under IRCA. At all relevant times, plaintiff INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
5 (SAN FRANCISCO) has provided legal assistance to immigrants seeking legalization under IRCA.  
6 . Clients of Plaintiff INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE (SAN FRANCISCO) had and have clients  
7 who have been injured by defendants in a variety of ways relating to “known to the government  
8 procedures,” including but not limited to, refusal to accept their applications, refusal to properly  
9 adjudicate their applications, denial of their applications, and refusal to provide application forms.  
10 Other clients did not file their applications substantially because of defendants’ front desk  
11 policies. These clients are otherwise eligible for legalization but for the challenged practices of  
12 defendants. Plaintiff INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE (SAN FRANCISCO) sues on behalf of its  
13 clients.

14 19. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 1, a resident of the State of Pennsylvania, entered the  
15 United States from Nigeria on an F-1 student visa on January 20, 1980. Prior to January 1, 1982  
16 he violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by working without authorization, and he has federal  
17 tax records to establish this fact. In addition, he violated his status prior to January 1, 1982 by  
18 failing to take a full course of studies and by failing to file address reports as required under INA  
19 §265. He has since then maintained a continuous unlawful residence in the United States. He is a  
20 member of category 1 and category 2, as defined below. JOHN DOE NUMBER 1 attempted to  
21 file a complete application and application fee with an authorized legalization office of the Service  
22 but had the application and fee refused by such authorized representative because of the INS's  
23 policies and practices challenged in this lawsuit. JOHN DOE NUMBER 1 was told that he was not  
24 eligible for the legalization program and that the INS legalization office would not accept his  
25 application for filing. JOHN DOE NUMBER 1 is eligible for legalization, but for the fact that he  
26 was prevented from applying during the application period because of INS's unlawful policies and  
27 practices challenged herein.

28 20. Plaintiff JANE DOE NUMBER 1, a resident of the State of California, entered the



1 United States from Malaysia on an F-1 student visa in 1977. Prior to January 1, 1982 she violated  
2 the terms of her nonimmigrant visa by working without authorization. In addition, she failed to  
3 comply with the address reporting requirements of INA §265. She has since then maintained a  
4 continuous unlawful residence in the United States. She is a member of category 1, as defined  
5 below. JANE DOE NUMBER 1 took all of the steps that she reasonably could to file an  
6 application for legalization during the application period, but was prevented from completing the  
7 application process substantially because of INS's front-desking policy. During the legalization  
8 application period JANE DOE NUMBER 1 went to an INS Office in Los Angeles, California to  
9 apply for legalization. The Immigration Officer at the front counter refused to give JANE DOE  
10 NUMBER 1 the necessary application forms for the legalization program. JANE DOE NUMBER  
11 1 was not made aware of any appeal from the decision to block her from completing the  
12 legalization process. She is informed and believes that no administrative appeal exists. INS's  
13 failure to publicize correct information regarding eligibility criteria was also a cause of her failure  
14 to complete the application process. JANE DOE NUMBER 1 is eligible for legalization, but for  
15 the fact that she was prevented from applying because of INS's unlawful policies and practices  
16 challenged herein.

17 21. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 2, a resident of the State of Illinois, entered the United  
18 States from Cameroon on an F-1 student visa on January 14, 1981. Prior to January 1, 1982 he  
19 violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by working without authorization, and he has records  
20 from the Social Security Administration establishing this fact. He also failed to comply with the  
21 address reporting requirements of INA section 265. He has since then maintained a continuous  
22 unlawful residence in the United States. He is a member of category 1, as defined below. JOHN  
23 DOE NUMBER 2 took all of the steps that he reasonably could to file an application for  
24 legalization during the application period; he failed to file an application for legalization  
25 substantially because of INS's front-desking policy. He received incorrect information  
26 concerning eligibility requirements through the INS outreach program. JOHN DOE NUMBER 2  
27 was aware that pursuant to INS's front-desking policy, INS had refused to accept applications and  
28 application fees from similarly-situated individuals who attempted to apply for legalization, and

1 that the Immigration Officers at the front counter refused to accept their applications. Based on  
2 these events, JOHN DOE NUMBER 2 understood that he was not eligible to participate in the  
3 legalization program, that the Immigration Service would not accept his application and application  
4 fee, and that he would not be issued work authorization if he attempted to apply. INS's failure to  
5 publicize correct information regarding eligibility criteria was also a cause of his failure to  
6 complete the application process. JOHN DOE NUMBER 2 is eligible for legalization but for the  
7 fact that he failed to apply substantially because of INS's front-desking policy.

8 22. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 3, a resident of the State of California, entered the  
9 United States from Nigeria as a student on December 26, 1980. Prior to January 1, 1982 JOHN  
10 DOE NUMBER 3 violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by by working without  
11 authorization, and he has income tax returns and Social Security records to establish this fact. In  
12 addition, he failed to comply with the terms of his visa by failing to file required address reports  
13 and by dropping out of school prior to January 1, 1982. He is a member of categories 1 and 2, as  
14 defined below. JOHN DOE NUMBER 3 filed an application for legalization during the application  
15 period, and his application should have been approved and he should be a permanent resident by  
16 this time. However, his application has not yet been approved because of the INS's "known to the  
17 government" policies and practices challenged in this lawsuit. But for INS's unlawful policies and  
18 practices, JOHN DOE NUMBER 3 would have been approved for permanent residence many years  
19 ago.

20 23. JOHN DOE NUMBER 4, a resident of the Western District of the State of Washington,  
21 entered the United States from Canada in 1981 without inspection. After a three week trip back to  
22 his homeland, the Cameroon, he re-entered the United States in 1984 on an F-1 student visa that  
23 was invalid. He is a member of category 3 as defined below. JOHN DOE NUMBER 4 attempted  
24 to file a completed amnesty application with application fee at the Seattle INS office in December  
25 1987. The INS employee at the front counter reviewed his application and told him that he was not  
26 eligible to apply and refused to accept his application and application fee because of the INS's  
27 "known to the government" policies and practices challenged in this lawsuit. JOHN DOE  
28 NUMBER 4 was told that he is not eligible for the legalization program and that the INS



1 legalization office would not accept his application for filing.. JOHN DOE NUMBER 4 is eligible  
2 for legalization but for the fact that he was prevented from applying because of INS's unlawful  
3 policies and practices challenged herein.

4 24. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 5, a resident of the Western District of the State of  
5 Washington, entered the United States from Nigeria on an F-1 student visa in 1980. Prior to  
6 January 1, 1982 he violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by transferring schools without  
7 prior INS approval. In addition, he failed to comply with the address reporting requirements of  
8 INA §265. He has since then maintained a continuous unlawful residence in the United States. He  
9 is a member of categories 1 and 2, as defined below. JOHN DOE NUMBER 5 took all of the  
10 steps that he reasonably could to file an application for legalization during the application period,  
11 but was prevented from completing the application process substantially because of INS's front-  
12 desk policy. During the legalization application period JOHN DOE NUMBER 5 went to the  
13 INS Office in Seattle to apply for legalization. The Immigration Officer at the front counter  
14 refused to give JOHN DOE NUMBER 5 the necessary application forms for the legalization  
15 program. JOHN DOE NUMBER 5 was not made aware of any appeal from the decision to block  
16 him from completing the legalization process. He is informed and believes that no administrative  
17 appeal exists. INS's failure to publicize correct information regarding eligibility criteria was also  
18 a cause of his failure to complete the application process. JOHN DOE NUMBER 5 is eligible for  
19 legalization, but for the fact that he was prevented from applying because of INS's unlawful  
20 policies and practices challenged herein.

21 25. Plaintiff JANE DOE NUMBER 2, a resident of the State of South Carolina, entered the  
22 United States from Egypt on August 22, 1979. JANE DOE NUMBER 2 violated the terms of her  
23 nonimmigrant visa by dropping out of school prior to January 1, 1982. In addition, she failed to  
24 comply with the address reporting requirements of INA §265 prior to January 1, 1982. She is a  
25 member of categories 1 and 2, as defined below. JANE DOE NUMBER 2 filed an application for  
26 legalization during the application period, and her application was denied on the basis that she  
27 failed to satisfy the "known to the government" requirement. The Legalization Appeals Unit has  
28 issued a final denial of her application for legalization. In denying JANE DOE NUMBER 2's

1 application for legalization, INS failed to follow the procedures required by law for adjudicating  
2 “known to the government” cases. JANE DOE NUMBER 2 is eligible for legalization and her  
3 application for legalization would be approved, but for the failure of the defendants to follow  
4 correct and lawful procedures for adjudicating “known to the government” cases.

5 26. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 6, a resident of the State of Oregon, entered the United  
6 States from Saudi Arabia on an F-1 student visa in December 1979. Prior to January 1, 1982 he  
7 violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by failing to take a full course of studies and by failing  
8 to file address reports as required under INA §265. He has since then maintained a continuous  
9 unlawful residence in the United States. He is a member of category 1 and category 2, as defined  
10 below. JOHN DOE NUMBER 6 attempted to file a complete application and application fee with  
11 an authorized legalization office of the Service in Portland, Oregon prior to the May 5, 1988  
12 deadline, but had the application and fee refused because of the INS's policies and practices  
13 challenged in this lawsuit. JOHN DOE NUMBER 6 was told that he was not eligible for the  
14 legalization program and that the INS legalization office would not accept his application for  
15 filing. JOHN DOE NUMBER 6 is eligible for legalization, but for the fact that he was prevented  
16 from applying during the application period because of INS's unlawful policies and practices  
17 challenged herein.

18 27. Plaintiff JANE DOE NUMBER 3 is a citizen of the Philippines, residing in Seattle,  
19 Washington. She entered the United States in April 1981 on a visitor visa. In May 1981 JANE  
20 DOE NUMBER 3 began attending high school in violation of her status. She subsequently  
21 submitted an application to change status to F-1 student status. Prior to January 1, 1982 JANE  
22 DOE NUMBER 3 willfully failed to comply with the address report requirements of INA 265.  
23 She filed a timely application for amnesty pursuant to INA 245A at Seattle, Washington, but was  
24 denied by the Regional Processing Facility in 1988. She filed a timely appeal to the Legalization  
25 Appeals Unit, and the appeal was denied on September 19, 2000. JANE DOE NUMBER 3's  
26 application for legalization was denied because INS failed to follow correct and lawful procedures  
27 concerning proof of a pre-1/1/82 violation that was "known to the government". If the Immigration  
28 Service had followed correct and lawful procedures relating to the “known to the government”

1 requirement, then her application would have been approved. Since her application was denied,  
2 JANE DOE NUMBER 3 has been unable to renew her work authorization card and she no longer  
3 has a stay of removal because her application for legalization is no longer pending.

4 28 Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 7 is a citizen of Iran, residing in the greater Los Angeles.  
5 He entered the United States in 1978 as an F-1 student. Prior to January 1, 1982, he violated the  
6 address reporting requirements of INA 265, though he was informed of the requirements in the I-  
7 20 forms issued by the schools he attended. He has resided continuously in the United States  
8 since 1978 and meets all the eligibility requirements for INA 245A. In December 1987 he filed a  
9 timely I-687 application with an INS office in Los Angeles and was granted work authorization.  
10 He was interviewed by INS in Los Angeles in February 1988 and recommended for approval. In  
11 1989, he was approved for lawful temporary resident status by the INS and issued an INS  
12 Temporary Resident card to show his status. Subsequently JOHN DOE NUMBER 7 applied for  
13 adjustment to permanent resident status under the legalization program. In 1990, INS issued a  
14 Notice of Intent to Terminate his status as a Temporary Resident. The notice informed him of the  
15 intent to terminate his status unless he provided evidence that his violation of status prior to  
16 January 1, 1982 was "known to the government." He provided further evidence as requested, but  
17 INS has still not approved his application for adjustment to permanent resident status. JOHN DOE  
18 NUMBER 7 is unable to complete the legalization process and obtain the benefits he is entitled to  
19 under the legalization program because INS has failed to follow correct and lawful procedures  
20 concerning proof of a pre-1/1/82 violation that was "known to the government". If the Immigration  
21 Service had followed correct and lawful procedures relating to the "known to the government"  
22 requirement, then JOHN DOE NUMBER 7 would have obtained permanent resident status under  
23 the legalization program many years ago.

24 29. Plaintiff JOHN DOE NUMBER 8, a resident of the Western District of the State of  
25 Washington, entered the United States from the Philippines on or about April 15, 1981 on a  
26 nonimmigrant visitor visa, and shortly thereafter he changed status to a nonimmigrant student.  
27 Prior to January 1, 1982 JOHN DOE NUMBER 8 violated the terms of his nonimmigrant visa by  
28 by working without authorization, and by failing to comply with the address reporting

1 requirements. He is a member of category 1. JOHN DOE NUMBER 8 has maintained a  
2 continuous unlawful residence in the United States since that time. JOHN DOE NUMBER 8 filed  
3 an application for legalization during the application period. His application for legalization  
4 should have been approved and he should be a permanent resident by this time. His application has  
5 not yet been approved because of the INS's "known to the government" policies and practices  
6 challenged in this lawsuit. But for INS's unlawful policies and practices, JOHN DOE NUMBER 8  
7 would have been approved for permanent residence many years ago.

8 30. Defendant UNITED STATES BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION  
9 SERVICES ("USCIS" or "Immigration Service") is the federal agency within the Department of  
10 Homeland Security responsible for the lawful administration and implementation of the provisions  
11 of the Immigration and Nationality Act that are at issue in this lawsuit. Prior to March 1, 2003,  
12 the IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) was the federal agency  
13 responsible for the lawful administration and implementation of these provisions. The USCIS is  
14 the successor agency of the INS.

15 31. Defendant EDUARDO AGUIRRE is the Director of Defendant CIS. He is sued in his  
16 official capacity.

17 32. Defendant DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY is the federal agency which  
18 includes Defendant CIS since March 1, 2003.

19 33. Defendant TOM RIDGE is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.  
20 Defendant RIDGE is the official responsible for the administration of the INS and the  
21 implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Defendant RIDGE is  
22 sued in his official capacity.

23 34. Defendant DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE is the federal agency of which INS was a part  
24 prior to March 1, 2003. The Department of Justice continues to be responsible for detention and  
25 removal of aliens.

26 35. Defendant JOHN ASHCROFT is the Attorney General of the United States and is sued  
27 in his official capacity only. Defendant ASHCROFT is charged with the enforcement of the  
28 Immigration and Nationality Act, including the handling of immigration cases pending before the

1 Immigration Court under the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

2 36. Defendant SECRETARY OF STATE is responsible for overseas issuance of visas to  
3 enter the United States and for implementation of the INA abroad.

4 37. Defendant COLIN POWELL is the Secretary of State. He is sued in his official  
5 capacity only. He is charged with the implementation of the Immigration and Nationality Act at  
6 U.S. consulates abroad.

#### 7 **IV. BACKGROUND**

8 38. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) comprehensively amended the  
9 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. §1101 et seq., providing, inter alia, for a  
10 mechanism by which certain deportable aliens were able to legalize their status in the United  
11 States, by first adjusting to lawful temporary resident status, and then to lawful permanent resident  
12 status.

13 39. To qualify for legalization, a deportable alien must establish, inter alia, that he entered  
14 the United States before January 1, 1982, and that he has resided continuously in the United States  
15 in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed . INA  
16 §245A(a)(2), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(a)(2).

17 40. If the applicant entered the United States with a non-immigrant visa before January 1,  
18 1982, the applicant must establish that (a) his or her period of authorized stay as a nonimmigrant  
19 expired before January 1, 1982, through the passage of time, or (b) his or her unlawful status (i.e.  
20 violation of non-immigrant status) was "known to the Government" as of such date. INA  
21 §245A(a)(2)(B), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(a)(2)(B).

22 41. The Immigration Service adopted policies and practices designed to disqualify from the  
23 legalization program plaintiffs and class members who entered the United States on ;nonimmigrant  
24 visas prior to January 1, 1982 and whose visas were facially valid until after January 1, 1982. The  
25 Immigration Service had a policy and practice, on a nationwide basis, of deterring plaintiffs and  
26 class members from applying and making it significantly more difficult for them to file  
27 applications. Through its Congressionally mandated publicity program, INS disseminated  
28 information that such individuals were not eligible for legalization and should not file applications.

1 42. Plaintiffs challenge the INS's regulations and INS practices defining and interpreting the  
2 term "known to the Government", as that term is used in INA §245A. Based on such regulations  
3 and practices, INS deemed the plaintiffs and class members to have non-meritorious applications  
4 for legalization, and INS refused to accept applications submitted by plaintiffs and class members.  
5 Plaintiffs and class members were turned away by the Immigration Service during the one year  
6 legalization application period. The Immigration Service refused to accept applications from such  
7 individuals; INS refused to provide application forms to such individuals; INS informed such  
8 individuals that they were not eligible to apply for legalization and told such individuals that they  
9 should not apply for the legalization program; and INS widely publicized their policy of deeming  
10 such individuals statutorily ineligible for the legalization program and refusing to accept such  
11 applications. INS told its QDE's that such persons were not eligible under its regulations and their  
12 applications would be rejected. This program of disinformation was specifically targeted at  
13 plaintiffs and class members who had entered the United States on nonimmigrant visas.

14 43 The front-desking policy was one aspect of the policies and practices used by INS to  
15 discourage and deter many otherwise eligible individuals from applying for legalization. Many  
16 class members of this lawsuit failed to file an application for legalization during the one year  
17 application period substantially because of INS's front-desking policy.

18 44. As a result of INS's policies and practices, the community of individuals and agencies  
19 assisting legalization applicants became aware that the Immigration Service deemed plaintiffs and  
20 class members statutorily ineligible for legalization and would not accept their legalization  
21 applicants. Qualified Designated Entities ("QDE's") were contractually obligated to INS to follow  
22 INS regulations and policies, and pursuant to such contractual obligation QDE's turned away  
23 plaintiffs and class members. QDE's, other voluntary agencies and community organizations, and  
24 attorneys advised potential applicants, specifically the plaintiffs and class members of this lawsuit,  
25 that they were not eligible to participate in the legalization program, that the Immigration Service  
26 would not accept their applications, that such individuals would not be granted work authorization  
27 if they applied for legalization, and that they might be deported if they attempted to apply.

28 45. Under the regulations as originally promulgated, the statutory term "known to the



1 Government" "means [known to] the Immigration and Naturalization Service." 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d);  
2 52 Federal Register at 16208 (May 1, 1987). The regulations further provided that:

3 An alien's unlawful status was "known to the Government" only if:

4 (1) The Service received factual information constituting a violation of the alien's  
5 nonimmigrant status from any agency, bureau or department, or subdivision thereof, of  
6 the Federal government, and such information was stored or otherwise recorded in the  
7 official Service alien file, whether or not the Service took follow-up action on the  
8 information received. In order to meet the standard of "information constituting a  
9 violation of the alien's nonimmigrant status," the alien must have made a clear statement  
10 or declaration to the other federal agency, bureau or department that he or she was in  
11 violation of nonimmigrant status; or

12 (2) An affirmative determination was made by the Service prior to January 1, 1982 that the  
13 alien was subject to deportation proceedings ...

14 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d)(1) and (2) (1987), 52 Federal Register 16208 (May 1, 1987).

15 46. On November 17, 1987, defendants caused publication in the Federal Register of an  
16 "interim rule" which amended their "known to the Government" policy. Defendants added the  
17 following categories of applicants to those whose violation of status prior to January 1, 1982 was  
18 deemed "known to the Government":

19 [4] [Applicants who produce] documentation from a school approved to enroll foreign  
20 students under §214.3 which establishes that the said school forwarded to the Service a  
21 report that clearly indicated the applicant had violated his or her nonimmigrant student  
22 status prior to January 1, 1982. In order to be eligible under this part, the applicant  
23 must not have been reinstated to nonimmigrant status ...

24 [11] A nonimmigrant who entered the United States for the duration of status ("D/S")  
25 in one of the following classes, A, A-1, A-2, G, G-1, G-2, G-3 or G-4, whose qualifying  
26 employment terminated ... prior to January 1, 1982 ...

27 [12] A nonimmigrant who entered the United States for duration of status ("D/S") in  
28 one of the following classes, F, F-1 or F-2 who completed a full course of study ... and  
whose time period to depart if any ... after completion of study expired prior to January  
1, 1982 ...

[13] [A]n alien from an independent country of the Western hemisphere who was  
present in the United States prior to March 11, 1977 and was known by the INS to have  
a priority date for the issuance of an immigrant visa between July 1, 196 and December  
31, 1976 ... [and]

[14] An alien who filed an asylum application prior to January 1, 1982 ...

8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d)(4) and §245a.2(b)(11) - (14), 52 Federal Register 43845 (November 17,  
1987).

47. On June 22, 1988, after the legalization application period was over, defendant INS

1 promulgated regulations in the Federal Register and again modified 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d)(4), the  
 2 rule governing students who violated their student status prior to January 1, 1982. 53 Federal  
 3 Register 23880. Said regulation now reads as follows:

4 §245a.1 Definitions

5 (d) ...

6 (4) The applicant produces documentation from a school approved to enroll foreign  
 7 students under §214.3 which establishes that the said school forwarded to the Service a  
 8 report that clearly indicated the applicant had violated his or her nonimmigrant student  
 9 status prior to January 1, 1982. A school may submit an affirmation that the school did  
 forward to the Service the aforementioned report and that the school no longer has  
 available copies of the actual documentation sent. In order to be eligible under this part,  
 the applicant must not have been reinstated to nonimmigrant student status. [Emphasis  
 supplied to indicate new language.]

10 48. Plaintiffs and their proposed class members in the following categories are eligible for  
 11 legalization under the statute but have been deemed ineligible under defendants' unlawful  
 12 regulations and policies, and have been discouraged or prevented from applying for legalization  
 13 substantially because of INS's front-desking policy:

14 [1] Those who violated the terms of their nonimmigrant status prior to January 1,  
 15 1982 in a manner known to the government because documentation (including the  
 16 absence of records) existed in one or more government agencies which, taken as a  
 whole, would warrant a finding that the applicant was in an unlawful status prior to  
 January 1, 1982; or

17 [2] Those who violated the terms of their nonimmigrant visas and whose violations  
 18 were required to be made known to the INS pursuant to then existing regulations, but  
 19 who are unable pursuant to 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d) and §245a.2(d) to establish to the  
 20 satisfaction of INS for purposes of legalization eligibility, that such violation was made  
 known to INS because INS either destroyed such records or failed to store, input or  
 otherwise record such information in the official Service alien file; or

21 [3] Those who after January 1, 1982 continuously maintained an unlawful residence in  
 22 the United States, and who applied for and unlawfully received reinstatement to  
 23 nonimmigrant status or change of nonimmigrant status pursuant to INA §248, or  
 adjustment or status pursuant to INA §245, or some other immigration benefit from  
 INS, or the Department of State.

24 48. Section 245A(e)(2) of the INA, provides that an alien who presents a prima facie  
 25 application for legalization may not be deported and must be granted work authorization until a  
 26 final determination on the application has been made. Under INS's policies and practices,  
 27 plaintiffs and class members of have been deemed not to have prima facie applications. Because  
 28 of defendants' practice and policy of deterring plaintiffs and class members from applying for  
 legalization and preventing such individuals from applying, plaintiffs and class members have been

1 denied their statutory rights to stays of deportation and temporary work authorization or extension  
2 of same pursuant to §245A(e)(2), and have not been able to obtain access to administrative and  
3 judicial review of their claims to their statutory benefits.

4 49. Because of INS's unlawful policies and practices, plaintiffs and class members were  
5 turned away when they attempted to file applications for legalization. These individuals were not  
6 granted work authorization and stays of deportation; their applications were not accepted; they  
7 were denied the benefits Congress intended to bestow upon them; and they were prevented from  
8 obtaining administrative and judicial review as provided in IRCA.

9 50. Throughout the legalization application period, the Immigration Service refused to  
10 accept applications from plaintiffs and class members of this lawsuit; INS deemed such applicants  
11 to be statutorily ineligible for legalization, and deemed their applications to be frivolous. INS  
12 informed such individuals that they could be put in deportation proceedings if they attempted to  
13 file applications for legalization. INS told plaintiffs and class members not to apply for  
14 legalization and denied them their right to apply.

15 51. Throughout the legalization application period, the Immigration Service failed to provide  
16 correct and accurate information to plaintiffs and class members concerning their rights to apply  
17 for legalization and concerning their rights to legalization under IRCA; widely disseminated  
18 erroneous information that caused individuals to fail to apply; and caused a wide array of attorneys,  
19 immigration consultants, organizations and the media to disseminate INS's misinformation to  
20 plaintiffs and class members.

21 55. On September 30, 1996, Congress enacted the Illegal Immigration Reform and  
22 Immigrant Responsibility Act ("IIRIRA"), section 377 of which provides:

23 [N]o court shall have jurisdiction of any cause of action or claim by or on behalf of any  
24 person asserting an interest under this section unless such person in fact filed an application  
25 under this section within the period specified by subsection (a)(1) [May 5, 1987 to May 4,  
1988], or attempted to file a complete application and application fee with an authorized  
legalization officer of the Service but had the application and fee refused by that officer.

26 According to the DHS, the only individuals who are authorized to bring claims are individuals who  
27 tendered a complete application and application fee to on Immigration Service office. DHS  
28 refuses to acknowledge claims of class members who "attempted to file a complete application

1 and application fee". Furthermore, DHS refuses to acknowledge claims of class members who  
2 failed to file applications substantially because of INS's front-desking policy.

3 56. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed class who filed applications in a timely manner  
4 have been subjected to unfair and discriminatory adjudication procedures. Such plaintiffs and  
5 class members have been required to meet an impossibly difficult burden of proof, one which  
6 contravenes the Administrative Procedures Act and governing case law.

7 57. When INS adjudicates legalization applications, it has a policy of reviewing only  
8 information contained in an applicant's INS "A" file, but not other information in INS records  
9 maintained elsewhere, such as "alpha files", I-94 files, and address report lists. When INS  
10 adjudicates an application to determine whether a violation of status was "known to the  
11 Government," INS does not review all relevant INS records; INS does not provide the applicant  
12 with access to all relevant INS records; and INS does not disclose that it does not review all INS  
13 records. As a result, a determination as to whether the "known to the Government" standard has  
14 been met is made without a review of all relevant information; and a record adequate for  
15 administrative and judicial review is not compiled.

16 58. The INS has a policy and practice of not adjudicating legalization applications timely  
17 filed by individuals who fall in one or more of the proposed classes in this lawsuit. As a result,  
18 these plaintiffs and class members have not been able to adjust their status and have been  
19 unlawfully denied benefits to which they are statutorily entitled. Because they have not been  
20 approved for legalization, their family members have been unable to obtain legal status. The  
21 applicants have been unable to obtain administrative and judicial review of INS's unlawful practices  
22 and policies.

23 59. At various times during the course of this litigation, the INS has finally denied pending  
24 legalization applications of class members for "known to the government" reasons, which are  
25 challenged herein. Class members with a finally denied legalization application are not able to  
26 obtain work authorization nor a stay of removal. Such class members cannot obtain judicial review  
27 of the denial without turning themselves in to DHS to be placed in removal proceedings.

28 60. Some class members did obtain approval of their applications, but INS or its successor

1 agency later decided to rescind the approval and/or terminate the applicant's temporary resident  
 2 status. The INS has taken steps to terminate, or has terminated the temporary resident status  
 3 granted to class members, and has refused to adjust their status to permanent resident.

#### 4 V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

5 61. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly  
 6 situated pursuant to F.R.C.P. Rules 23(a) and 23(b). The subclasses, as proposed by plaintiffs,  
 7 consist of:

8 All persons who entered the United States in a non-immigrant status prior to January 1,  
 9 1982, who are otherwise eligible for legalization under INA §245A, 8 U.S.C. §1255a,  
 10 who were deterred from filing an application for legalization substantially because of  
 11 INS's regulations and policies, INS's dissemination of incorrect information on  
 eligibility, or who filed a legalization application which has been rejected, denied,  
 approved and then subsequently subjected to the termination process, or not  
 adjudicated, and who:

12 [1] Violated the terms of their nonimmigrant status prior to January 1, 1982 in a manner  
 13 known to the government because documentation (including the absence of certain records)  
 14 existed in one or more government agencies which, taken as a whole, would warrant a finding  
 that the applicant was in an unlawful status prior to January 1, 1982; and/or

15 [2] Violated the terms of their nonimmigrant visas before January 1, 1982, but INS records  
 16 for the relevant period, including required school and employer reports of status violations,  
 17 were not maintained in the official Service alien file or were destroyed by INS and the person  
 is unable to meet the requirements of 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d) and §245a.2(d) without such  
 records; and/or

18 [3] After January 1, 1982 continuously maintained an unlawful residence in the United  
 19 States and who, after January 1, 1982 applied for and unlawfully received a reinstatement to  
 20 nonimmigrant status, change of nonimmigrant status pursuant to INA §248, adjustment of  
 status pursuant to INA §245, or some other immigration benefit from INS, or the Department  
 of State.

21 62. The requirements of Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) are met in that the class is so numerous  
 22 that joinder of all members is impracticable (plaintiffs estimate that there are thousands of class  
 23 members), there are questions of law and fact common to the class (including whether defendants'  
 24 interpretation of §245A(a)(2)(B) and §245A(a)(2)(A) is in compliance with the statute, and the  
 25 equal protection and due process guarantees of the Fifth Amendment, whether class members'  
 26 violation of their nonimmigrant visas was "known to the Government" as required by statute, and  
 27 whether class members continue to maintain an unlawful residence), the claims of the  
 28 representative parties are typical of the claims of the class, the representative parties will fairly

1 and adequately represent the interests of the class because they are represented by pro bono  
 2 counsel with extensive expertise in class action litigation regarding the rights of immigrants, and  
 3 the party opposing the class has acted on grounds generally applicable to the class, thereby making  
 4 appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the class as a whole.

## 5 VI. IRREPARABLE INJURY

6 63. Plaintiffs, the members and clients of the plaintiff organizations, and members of the  
 7 plaintiff class, have suffered and will suffer irreparable harm because of defendants' challenged  
 8 policies and practices as described throughout this complaint. Plaintiffs, members and clients of  
 9 the plaintiff organizations, and members of the plaintiff class have experienced and will continue  
 10 to experience improper denial of the right to apply for legalization, issuance of employment  
 11 authorization, loss of employment, loss of family unity benefits, delays in obtaining lawful  
 12 permanent resident status, and possible deportation.

## 13 VII. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

### 14 A. First Claim for Relief 15 Defendants' Policy of Deterring Applicants From Filing Applications

16 64. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
 17 paragraphs 1 through 63.

18 65. The defendants' regulations adopted at 8 C.F.R. §245a.1(d)(2), 245.2(b) and .2(c), and  
 19 the policies and practices adopted pursuant thereto, including refusing to provide application  
 20 forms, deterring students and other individuals who entered the United States before January 1,  
 21 1982 on nonimmigrant visas that were facially valid after January 1, 1982 and who were otherwise  
 22 qualified for legalization, from applying for legalization, making it more difficult for such  
 23 individuals to submit applications for legalization, and such regulations, practices and policies  
 24 constitute a violation of and are inconsistent with §245A(a) (application rules and procedures),  
 25 §245A(e) (work authorization and stays of deportation), §245A(f) (administrative and judicial  
 26 review) and §245A(I) (dissemination of information) of the Immigration and Nationality Act,  
 27 §§701-706 of the Administrative Procedures Act, and also constitute a violation of and are  
 28 inconsistent with the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United States



1 Constitution.

2  
3 **B. Second Claim for Relief**  
4 **Defendants' Dissemination and Publication of Incorrect Information**  
5 **Concerning the Legalization Program**

6 66. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
7 paragraphs 1 through 63.

8 67. Defendants' policy and practice of failing to provide correct and accurate information to  
9 individuals eligible for legalization concerning both their rights to apply for legalization and  
10 concerning their rights to legalization under IRCA; widely disseminating erroneous and unlawful  
11 regulations policies, practices that (1) caused individuals to fail to apply, (2) caused a wide array  
12 of attorneys, immigration consultants, organizations and the media, relying on such illegal and  
13 incorrect regulations, policies and practices, to misinform otherwise eligible individuals, and  
14 refuse to assist them in filing legalization applications, resulting in the failure of plaintiffs and  
15 class members to timely complete the application process, and (3) resulted in improper  
16 expulsions of and denials of temporary stays of deportation and work authorization to individuals  
17 eligible for legalization, violates the rights of plaintiffs and class members under §245A(a), (e),  
18 (f) and (I), and under the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the Fifth  
19 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

20  
21 **C. Third Claim for Relief**  
22 **Defendants' Front-Desking Policy**

23 68. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
24 paragraphs 1 through 63.

25 69. Defendants' front-desking policy, which (1) caused individuals to fail to apply for  
26 legalization during the one year application period, (2) caused a wide array of attorneys,  
27 immigration consultants, organizations and the media to misinform otherwise eligible individuals,  
28 and refuse to assist them in filing legalization applications, resulting in the failure of plaintiffs and  
class members to timely complete the application process, and (3) resulted in improper

1 expulsions of and denials of temporary stays of deportation and work authorization to individuals  
2 eligible for legalization, violates the rights of plaintiffs and class members under §245A(a), (e),  
3 (f) and (I), and under the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the Fifth  
4 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

5  
6 **D. Fourth Claim for Relief**  
7 **Defendants' Denial of Temporary Stays of Deportation and Employment**  
8 **Authorization**

9 70. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference reincorporate the allegations contained in  
10 paragraphs 1 through 63.

11 71. Defendants' regulations, policies and practices as challenged above have denied and  
12 continue to deny temporary stays of deportation and employment authorization to plaintiffs and  
13 class members in violation of INA §245A(e)(2), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(e)(2), and the due process and  
14 equal protection guarantees of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

15 **E. Fifth Claim for Relief**  
16 **Defendants' Regulations and Policies of Refusing to Accept Evidence of**  
17 **Government Knowledge of a Violation of Status**

18 72. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
19 paragraphs 1 through 63.

20 73. The defendants' regulations and policies defining acceptable proof of government  
21 knowledge to meet the "known to the government" element, including regulations promulgated at 8  
22 C.F.R. §245a.1(d) and procedures for adjudicating legalization applications, impose a much higher  
23 burden of proof and impose greater procedural burdens on plaintiffs and class members, including  
24 (1) individuals whose violation of status was not recorded in an "official Service alien file" ("A-  
25 file"), but can be shown by an I-94 card or other credible documentation (or the absence of  
26 records, such as the lack of required quarterly or annual address reports or AR-11 forms) that  
27 exists in one or more federal agency (including INS); (2) students and temporary workers who can  
28 establish that their violation of status was reported to INS, but who are unable to obtain records in  
INS files showing that such a report was made (while not requiring such proof from students with

1 duration of status visas who graduated before January 1, 1982, or from diplomats, consular  
2 officers and other officials and employees of accredited foreign governments or international  
3 organizations and their immediate families); and (3) nonimmigrants who were improperly  
4 reinstated to status after January 1, 1982, all of whom are unable, under INS practices and  
5 procedures, including destruction of records after a specified time period or failure to retain them  
6 in the “official Service alien files”, to obtain reasonable access to relevant records and documents  
7 maintained by INS in order to support their claims to legalization. These regulations, policies and  
8 procedures are in violation of and inconsistent with §245A(a)(2)(B) of the Immigration and  
9 Nationality Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. §§551, et seq., the Due Process  
10 Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United States  
11 Constitution.

12  
13 **F. Sixth Claim for Relief**  
14 **Defendants’ Failure to Adopt Its Policies and Procedures in Compliance with**  
15 **the APA**

16 74. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
17 paragraphs 1 through 63.

18 75. The defendants' policies and practices challenged in the prior claims, *inter alia* its  
19 Legalization Wires, were not published in the Federal Register although such instructions  
20 constitute substantive rules of general applicability, statements of general policy, and  
21 interpretations of general applicability within the meaning of the Freedom of Information Act, 5  
22 U.S.C. §552(a)(1)(D), and are thereby required to be published in the Federal Register. The  
23 failure to solicit and consider public comment regarding such instructions violates the APA, 5  
24 U.S.C. §553(b)-(c). The failure to comply with such Acts renders the instructions void and  
25 inapplicable to plaintiffs and the class. The legalization regulations issued by defendants on May  
26 1, 1987, were similarly issued without publication of proposed regulations, the opportunity for  
27 public comment, and consideration of public comment, in violation of the Administrative  
28 Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §553(b)-(c).

1       **G. Seventh Claim for Relief**  
2       **Defendants' Failure to Grant Advance Parole**

3       76. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
4 paragraphs 1 through 63.

5       77. Defendants' policy and practice of refusing to grant advance parole to plaintiffs and class  
6 members to permit brief, innocent and casual absences from the United States other than for  
7 family emergencies involving the illness or death of immediate family members, and defendants'  
8 policy and practice of subjecting plaintiffs and class members who travel abroad for brief, casual  
9 and innocent reasons without INS advance parole to detention, exclusion and deportation, violates  
10 INA §245A(a)(3)(B), and the due process and equal protection guarantees of the Fifth Amendment  
11 to the U.S. Constitution.

12       **H. Eighth Claim for Relief**  
13       **Defendants' Policy of Holding Applications In Abeyance**

14       78. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
15 paragraphs 1 through 63.

16       79. INS's policy of indefinitely holding class members' legalization applications in abeyance  
17 and failure to adjudicate and approve such applications within a reasonable time after filing  
18 violates §245A(a),(b) and (f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Administrative  
19 Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. §§551, et. seq, and the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection  
20 Guarantee of the United States Constitution.

21  
22       **I. Ninth Claim for Relief**  
23       **Refusal to Accept Applications From QDE's**

24       80. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
25 paragraphs 1 through 63.

26       81. INS' refusal to permit QDE's to accept legalization applications filed by plaintiffs and  
27 class members, and INS' refusal to allow such applications when forwarded by QDE's to the  
28 Immigration Service, constitute a violation of INA §245A(c), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(c).

1       **J. Tenth Claim for Relief**  
2       **Agency's Interpretation of IIRIRA §377**

3       82. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
4 paragraphs 1 through 63.

5       83. INS's interpretation of §377, and its refusal to accept applications from class members  
6 who "attempted to file a complete application and application with an authorized legalization  
7 officer", violates INA §245A(f)(4), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(f)(4), and a violation of the Due Process  
8 Clause and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United States Constitution.

9       **K. Eleventh Claim for Relief**  
10       **IIRIRA §377**

11       84. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
12 paragraphs 1 through 63.

13       85. Section 377 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act  
14 violates the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United States  
15 Constitution.

16       **L. Twelfth Claim for Relief**  
17       **Final Denials of Applications for §245A Legalization**

18       86. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
19 paragraphs 1 through 63.

20       87. The policy of INS and DHS to issue final denials of legalization applications filed by  
21 class members, and the failure to follow the procedures established by this court, are in violation  
22 of and inconsistent with §245A(a)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the  
23 Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. §§551, et seq., the Due Process Clause of the Fifth  
24 Amendment and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United States Constitution.

25       **M. Thirteenth Claim for Relief**  
26       **Termination, or Intent to Terminate Temporary Resident Status, Based on**  
27       **Challenged Known to the Government Policies and Procedures**  
28

1 88. Plaintiffs reallege and by this reference incorporate the allegations contained in  
2 paragraphs 1 through 63.

3 89 The policy of INS and DHS to terminate and/or issue notices of intent to terminate, on  
4 the basis of their challenged “known to the government” policies, the lawful permanent resident  
5 status previously granted to class members, violates and is inconsistent with §245A(a)(2)(B) of  
6 the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. §§551, et seq.,  
7 the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Equal Protection Guarantee of the United  
8 States Constitution.

9  
10  
11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 WHEREFORE, plaintiffs request that this Court:

- 13 1. Assume jurisdiction over this case;
- 14 2. Certify this case as a class action lawsuit, as proposed herein;
- 15 3. Issue declaratory judgment that defendants' challenged policies, practices and  
16 regulations are in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by the Immigration  
17 Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Administrative Procedures Act, and the due process and  
18 equal protection guarantees of the Fifth Amendment;
- 19 4. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining defendants from expelling  
20 plaintiffs and class members from the country, preventing their return to the United States  
21 following improper expulsions from the country, refusing to accept and process applications filed  
22 by plaintiffs and class members after the termination of the legalization application period,  
23 refusing to grant temporary employment authorization and stays of deportation based on the  
24 challenged regulations, policies, and practices, refusing to grant advance parole, and further  
25 enjoining implementation and of defendants' challenged policies, practices and regulations as  
26 described throughout this complaint, and preventing defendants from relying on these unlawful  
27 regulations and the adverse determinations made based on them.
- 28 5. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring defendants to reopen on its own



1 motion all final §245A denials based in whole or in part on the“known to the government” policies  
2 and procedures challenged herein, reinstate employment authorization without fee for all such  
3 cases, provide notice to the applicants in these reopened cases of the orders of this court, provide  
4 the applicants in such reopened cases with an opportunity to review their legalization files and all  
5 other government records, and an opportunity to supplement their legalization application files,  
6 and requiring the defendants to readjudicate the application in accordance with the orders issued  
7 by this court.

8         6. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring defendants to reopen on its own  
9 motion all cases in which INS or DHS has issued a final order terminating §245A temporary  
10 resident status based in whole or in part on the“known to the government” policies and procedures  
11 challenged herein, reinstate employment authorization without fee for all such cases, provide  
12 notice to the applicants in these reopened cases of the orders of this court, provide the applicants  
13 in such reopened cases with an opportunity to review their legalization files and all other  
14 government records, and an opportunity to supplement their legalization application files, and  
15 requiring the defendants to readjudicate the application in accordance with the orders issued by  
16 this court;

17         7. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring defendants to provide notice to  
18 any class members whose applications are pending before DHS; such notice to inform such class  
19 member that (1) the class members of this lawsuit will have their applications adjudicated under  
20 certain evidentiary standards and procedures as ordered by the court, (2) class members will have  
21 an opportunity to obtain a copy of their legalization files and evidence from any other records  
22 maintained by the government; (3) defendants shall not deny the applications filed by class  
23 members or terminate the status of class members until they have had an opportunity to review  
24 their files and all relevant government records, including records concerning their violation of  
25 status and the government’s actual or imputed knowledge of same, (4) class members are entitled  
26 to obtain a stay of removal and an employment authorization document during the pendency of the  
27 adjudication process;

28         8. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring the defendants to accept

1 legalization applications from individuals who were deterred from applying during the legalization  
2 application period, and requiring further that such applications be deemed to have been filed not  
3 later than May 4, 1988, and requiring further that individuals who submit such applications be  
4 granted work authorizations and stays of deportation pursuant to INA §245A(e)(2).

5 9. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring the defendants to comply with  
6 the terms of IRCA as applicable to plaintiffs' claims raised herein, and to adopt proper and lawful  
7 procedures for adjudicating legalization applications;

8 10. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring that if the Bureau of Citizenship  
9 and Immigration Services approves any pending legalization application pursuant to the orders of  
10 this court, then such application shall be deemed to have been approved nunc pro tunc as of  
11 December 1, 1990; and if the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services approves a class  
12 member's application for permanent resident status under INA §245A(b), 8 U.S.C. §1255a(b), then  
13 such application for permanent residence shall be deemed to have been approved nunc pro tunc as  
14 of December 1, 1995.

15 11. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring that the defendants reopen and  
16 vacate any exclusion, deportation, or removal orders entered against any class members on or after  
17 May 1, 1987, and requiring that defendants readmit without delay all class members, and their  
18 family members who are eligible for benefits under the Family Unity program, who were removed  
19 from or who departed from the United States, including under "voluntary departure", so that such  
20 class members and their family members may pursue the benefits that they are entitled to under  
21 this lawsuit;

22 12. Award plaintiffs their costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and such other relief as the Court  
23 deems just and proper to remedy the injuries suffered by the plaintiffs and their class members.

24  
25 Dated this 6th day of February, 2004.

26  
27 Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 6, 2004, I electronically filed the foregoing Third Amended Complaint with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following CM/ECF participants:

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