

MATTER OF ELLY VELEZ PAMATONG

**Application for Permission to Represent Persons
Pursuant to Title 8, Section 292.1,
of the Code of Federal Regulations**

Decided by Board November 9, 1979

- (1) Under 8 C.F.R. 292.1, only certain designated individuals are authorized to represent persons before the Board and the Service. Included in this category are attorneys as defined in 8 C.F.R. 1.1(f).
- (2) In the case of an individual who is an alien, the provisions of 8 C.F.R. 292.1 apply equally to resident aliens and refugees, and thus the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees are complied with.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, an alien refugee who is a graduate of the Philippines Law Program is denied permission to practice before the Board since he is not within any of the categories specified in 8 C.F.R. 292.1(d).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Pro se
By: Milhollan, Chairman; Maniatis, Appleman, Maguire, and Farb, Board Members

The applicant desires permission to represent persons before the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Board of Immigration Appeals. He is a native and citizen of the Philippines and a graduate of the University of the Philippines Law Program. He is considered a refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, although from the information provided by the applicant, his present status in the United States is not specified.

Under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. 292.1, only certain designated individuals are authorized to represent persons before the Service and the Board. Included in this category are attorneys as defined in 8 C.F.R. 1.1(f). Law students and law graduates not yet admitted to the bar are also authorized under certain circumstances to represent persons. In addition, certain reputable individuals, appearing at the request of the person involved, may represent that person. The final category of individuals who may represent persons includes those who have been accredited by the Board as representatives of recognized organizations.

The applicant here wishes to practice before the Board and the

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Service for compensation. To do this, he must meet the same qualifications as any individual desiring to function as an attorney. This means that he must qualify as a member of a bar as defined in 8 C.F.R. 1.1(f). This requirement would appear to conform to the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, cited by the applicant, as it is applicable to all who wish to practice before the Board and the Service, resident aliens and refugees alike. Since the applicant here is not an attorney within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. 292.1 as defined in 8 C.F.R. 1.1(f), his application must consequently be disapproved.

ORDER. The application is disapproved.