Date: 20070730

Docket: T-795-06

Citation: 2007 FC 795

Ottawa, Ontario, July 30, 2007

PRESENT: The Honourable Madam Justice Simpson

BETWEEN:

THE MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

Applicant

and

GHOLAMREZA BEHBAHANI

Respondent

REASONS FOR JUDGMENT AND JUDGMENT

[1] On March 10, 2006, a Citizenship Judge (the Judge) approved the Respondent's application for citizenship (the Decision). The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (the Minister) has appealed the Decision under subsection 14(5) of the *Citizenship Act*, R.S. 1985, c. C-29 (the Act) on the basis that the Judge failed to provide the Minister with reasons for the Decision.

[2] The requirement for such reasons is found in subsection 14(2) of the Act. It states:

14. (2) Forthwith after making a determination under subsection (1) in respect of an application referred to therein but subject to section 15, the citizenship judge shall approve or not approve the application in accordance with his 14. (2) Aussitôt après avoir statué sur la demande visée au paragraphe (1), le juge de la citoyenneté, sous réserve de l'article 15, approuve ou rejette la demande selon qu'il conclut ou non à la conformité de celle-ci <u>et</u>

determination, <u>notify the Minister accordingly</u> and provide the Minister with the reasons therefor.

transmet sa décision motivée au ministre.

[je souligne]

[my emphasis]

[3] The Decision is attached as Schedule "A" to these reasons. It does not explain why the
Respondent was given citizenship even though he did not meet the statutory residency requirement
(he was twenty-two days short) and even though, after repeated requests, he did not provide
Citizenship and Immigration with his expired passports.

[4] In the circumstances of this case, reasons should have, *inter alia*, described any documents the Respondent brought to the hearing and their impact on the Decision and should have indicated the residency test the Judge used and explained why he decided that the residency requirements in section 5 of the Act had been met.

[5] In my view, because the box provided for reasons on Schedule "A" is blank and because there are no other statements or endorsements which explain the Judge's thought process, the Judge failed to discharge his duty under subsection 14(2). While Schedule "A" meets the notice requirement, it does not satisfy the requirement to provide reasons.

JUDGMENT

UPON reviewing the material filed and hearing the submissions of counsel for both parties in Vancouver, BC on April 10, 2007;

AND UPON being advised that the Judge is still a Citizenship Judge.

THIS COURT ORDERS AND ADJUDGES that, for the reasons above, the appeal is allowed and the file is referred back to the Judge who made the Decision. He is hereby ordered to provide the Minister with written reasons for the Decision, in accordance with these reasons within ninety (90) days of this order.

> "Sandra J. Simpson" JUDGE

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FEDERAL COURT

SOLICITORS OF RECORD

DOCKET:	T-795-06
STYLE OF CAUSE:	MCI v. Gholamreza Behbahani
PLACE OF HEARING:	Vancouver, BC
DATE OF HEARING:	April 10, 2007
REASONS FOR JUDGMENT:	SIMPSON J.
DATED:	July 30, 2007

<u>APPEARANCES</u>:

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Mr. Lorne Waldman

FOR THE APPLICANT

FOR THE RESPONDENT

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