

**FOR PUBLICATION
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

GIOVANNI MOLINA-ESTRADA,
Petitioner

COUNSEL

Lori R. E. Ploeger, Cooley Godward LLP, Palo Alto, California, for the petitioner, and Giovanni Molina-Estrada, Florida, for respondent. NSEL

OPINION

DISCUSSION

A. Cancellation of Removal

To be eligible for cancellation of removal, an alien who has not been admitted lawfully for permanent residence in the United States must establish, among other factors, "that removal would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the alien's spouse, parent, or child, who is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence." 8 U.S.C. § 1229b(b)(1)(D) (emphasis added). Petitioner argued below that his removal would cause exceptional hardship to his mother who, he alleged, was a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

Petitioner presented no evidence of his mother's permanent-resident status records showed that his mother was not a lawful permanent resident. The BIA there-

account of his father's political opinion, which was imputed to him. "To establish imputed political opinion, an applicant must show that his persecutors actually imputed a political opinion to him." Navas v. INS, 217 F.3d 646, 659 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting Sangha, 103 F.3d at 1489).

In this case, the evidence is not such that it "would

