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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:

Abraham Carpenter, Jr. (Docket No. **17-0245**);

Danny Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0246**);

Katie Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0247**);

Albert Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0248**);

Carlos Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0249**);

Bobbie Jean Clark (Docket No. **17-0250**); and

Abraham Carpenter, Sr. (Docket No. **17-0251**),

Petitioners,

**Dismissal (With Prejudice)**

Appearances:

Mr. Corey Lea, representative for Abraham Carpenter, Jr., Danny Carpenter, Katie Carpenter, Albert Carpenter, Carlos Carpenter, Bobbie Jean Clark, and Abraham Carpenter, Sr., Petitioners; and

Mr. Juan Carlos Alarcon, Esq. with the Office of the General Counsel, Civil Rights Litigation Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.

1. I have carefully reviewed the Petitioners' Request for a Formal Hearing Before the Administrative Law Judge filed March 29, 2017; and the Agency Responses filed April 12, 2017, a separate Response for each docket number ( **17-0245**, **17-0246**, **17-0247**, **17-0248**,

**17-0249, 17-0250, and 17-0251).**

2. I conclude that Administrative Law Judges have no authority to grant the relief requested, as stated in the Agency Responses. Consequently, the case of Abraham Carpenter, Jr. (Docket No. **17-0245**); Danny Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0246**); Katie Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0247**); Albert Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0248**); Carlos Carpenter (Docket No. **17-0249**); Bobbie Jean Clark (Docket No. **17-0250**); and Abraham Carpenter, Sr. (Docket No. **17-0251**), Petitioners, is DISMISSED (With Prejudice).

Copies of this Dismissal (With Prejudice) order shall be served by the Hearing Clerk upon each of the parties.

Done at Washington, D.C.  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area of the Administrative Law Judge.

Jill S. Clifton  
Administrative Law Judge

Hearing Clerk's Office  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Stop 9203 South Building Room 1031  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9203  
202-720-4443  
FAX 202-720-9776  
[OALJHearingClerks@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:OALJHearingClerks@ocio.usda.gov)