

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



**ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL**

## New amnesty settlement – But don't apply unless you are truly eligible!

However, in order to be legitimately eligible for this amnesty program, the person had to have been in the US before January 1982, and remained in illegal status up until about 1988. If you did not enter the US before January 1982, then you would not be eligible.

I recall one person attempted to apply for this amnesty, and couldn't understand why her application was denied. The problem was that she was born in 1984, but was seeking amnesty based on her being in the US before 1982! There are many ways for USCIS to discover that you were not in the US before 1982. For example, if you claim you were in the US, but went to college in the Philippines, there is a record of your graduation there after 1982, which the US government will find. Or, if you had children in the Philippines, their births are registered with the local civil registrar and National Statistics Office. So, if you gave birth in the Philippines in the '90s, how could you have been in the US before 1982?

I know that people often become desperate to get "legal" by any means possible, and without any questions asked. You may come across friends, immigration consultants, or shady characters, urging you (like the snake in the Garden of Eden) to take a "bite"

out of this amnesty program. But if you apply when you are not qualified, not only will you be denied, but you will also "wake up" the Department of Homeland Security, alerting them to the fact that you are in the US illegally and not entitled to any immigration status. Then, rather than making your situation better, you will have made it worse.

That is why it's important that you seek the advice of a reputable attorney, who can analyze your situation and advise you of the legitimate ways, if any, to legalize your status. If you are not eligible, don't apply!

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of, an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different.

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(Advertising Supplement)

## The unstoppable 'Pop Princess' Sarah Geronimo shines on 'Citizen Pinoy!'



THE UNSTOPPABLE POP PRINCESS SHINES ON CITIZEN PINOY THIS SUNDAY! One of the biggest names in Philippine entertainment—"Pop Princess" Sarah Geronimo (2nd from right) joins "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for an entertaining and informative episode. Sarah's parents, Delfin (left) and Divina (2nd from left), also take part in the lively discussion as they talk about how they got their US visas. The most popular immigration program on television—Citizen Pinoy—airs this Sunday at 5:40 pm (PST), with a replay on Tuesday at 11:20 pm (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 midnight, with replays on Sunday at 8 am and Thursday at 7 pm, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday (Manila time).

REDWOOD CITY, CA—Sarah Geronimo immediately owned the spotlight when she won a talent search contest at the young age of 14. Half a decade later, she is now one of the biggest names in Philippine entertainment—with chart-busting records, music awards, hit *teleseryes*, and a box-office blockbuster movie. This Sunday, she radiates once more when she takes on the role of co-host to leading immigration attorney Michael J. Gurfinkel on the most popular immigration program on television—*Citizen Pinoy*.

Sarah first appeared on *Citizen Pinoy* in 2005 when Atty. Gurfinkel helped her obtain her entertainer visa for her very first trip to the USA. Sarah's parents—Delfin and Divine—also join the show to share their experiences with the US embassy and acquiring their individual visas.

Questions from the audience about their immigration concerns will also be answered. So be sure to watch another brand-new episode of *Citizen Pinoy* with Atty. Michael J. Gurfinkel and special co-host Sarah Geronimo. Broadcast personality Gel Santos-Relos also makes a special appearance from the USA. It's an all-new season of *Citizen Pinoy* this Sunday at 5:40 pm (PST), with a replay on Tuesday at 11:20 pm (PST) on TFC.

*Citizen Pinoy* is made possible with the support

of friends who are committed to giving back to the Filipino community: *Asian Journal*—with circulation in Northern and Southern California, Nevada, and in the East Coast; and Hawaiian Airlines. *Citizen Pinoy* is also supported by ABS-CBN Global's key product offerings: Star Kargo, Starry Starry Store, ABS-CBN Telecom and TFCDirect.

Informative. Entertaining. Inspiring. Watch *Citizen Pinoy*—the Filipino-American community's immigration program every Sunday at 5:40 pm (PST), with replays on Tuesdays at 11:20 pm (PST) on TFC. *Citizen Pinoy* also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 am, with replays on Sundays at 8 am and Thursdays at 7 pm, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with replays at 12 midnight on Mondays.

(Advertising Supplement)

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Owner Matt Samanoglu with Louie & Danny

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