

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

Petitions by Citizens:
The priority date for the First Preference Category, F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens, over 21 years of age) priority date remained the same at April 1, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) moved forward by 9 days from April 22, 1991 to May 1, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date remained the same at March 8, 1986.

Petitions by Green Card Holders:

The Second Preference, F-2A (Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder) moved forward by 1 month, from December 1, 2003 to January 1, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by 1 month from April 8, 1997 to May 8, 1997.

Petitions by Employers:
The Third Preference (profes-

sionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) priority date, which was unavailable the last few months is now January 1, 2005. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers, which was also

unavailable the last few months is now January 1, 2003.

Each month, the Visa Office of the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that visas (or green cards) would now

be available for persons whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below. If your priority date was "current", but retrogressed before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the US), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

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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THE OCTOBER 2008 PRIORITY DATES

Employment-based visas available again

The October 2008 priority dates for the Philippines		
FAMILY CATEGORY:		Priority Date
First Preference	Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)	April 1, 1993 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	January 1, 2004 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was December 1, 2003)</i>
Third Preference	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	May 8, 1997 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was April 8, 1997.)</i>
Fourth Preference	Married sons and daughters of US Citizens.	May 1, 1991 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was April 22, 1991.)</i>
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/Skilled Workers	January 1, 2005 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was unavailable.)</i>
Other workers	Non-Skilled Workers	January 1, 2003 <i>(In September 2008, the priority date was unavailable.)</i>

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an



AMBASSADRESS OF BEAUTY EXPERIENCES SEIZURE TWICE AT US CUSTOMS! Nip & tuck guru to top Pinoy celebrities, society's creme dela creme, and even ordinary individuals Dr. Vicki Belo (center) shares with TFC viewers her traumatic encounters with US Customs and how she learned her lesson that ignorance of the law is never an excuse. Join hosts attorney-to-the-stars Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) and broadcast personality Gel Santos-Relos (left) as they bring you this week's encore episode of Citizen Pinoy on 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 Saturday at 5 pm, with replays on Sunday at 9am, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 8 am, with replays at 12 midnight on Mondays.

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

THE vice presidency post, being just a heartbeat away from the presidency of the United States, never got this much attention until Sarah Palin came along. By now, most Americans and perhaps millions more around the world know about this moose-hunting, conservative, pit-bull of a woman who upholds the culture of life and who stands to

The Palin factor

"I do not propose to be buried until I am really dead"

—Daniel Webster on turning down the vice presidency in 1848

be a major defining element in the outcome of this national election.

Add the fact that Palin is fresh and wholesome, can connect with millions and a looker to boot—a Ms. Alaska beauty contest contender.

During the homestretch of this current national election which has gone on far too long through the dirty, gruelling Democratic Party

primaries, it is time to fully engage and put on our thinking cap, slice and dice the issues, vet the qualifications and closely scrutinize the characters of the candidates so that those of us in the community who can make their voices heard by voting prudently can influence the course this nation takes.

In an election which ought to be, by all indications, a slam

dunk for the Democratic candidate, something phenomenal and totally unprecedented in American politics, happened with the nomination of Sarah Palin, a virtual unknown who was tapped by McCain as his Vice President. In just 2 weeks, this woman has stolen the thunder from Obama and completely changed the dynamics of the race.

Like a pack of ravenous wolves, the sexist, misogynistic media circled and jumped on Sarah Palin and spread all kinds of stories about her and her family. America became curious about this woman and needed to find out for themselves. When she debuted on the national stage in her party's convention, cool, calm and composed with her now famous, feisty speech watched by nearly 40 million view-

ers, Palin negated the DNC media extravaganza and hit a grand slam, particularly with Hillary women voters. It was a stunning development in a largely predictable election year. Her selection by the sly, old, silver fox, who many people believed, didn't stand a chance of winning this election considering what he is up against, threw the opponent in disarray. The nearly comatose Republicans who will pull the lever for him out of partisan politics while pinching their nose suddenly got a shot in the arm and became energized. Nothing like this has ever happened before. The result: The race is a dead heat.

California is not one of the battleground states but with 55 electoral votes at stake, it will not be out of the ballpark to guess

that the Republicans may be yet decide to make a play for a state that registers Democratic, having delivered the state to Hillary Clinton in the primaries. There's no telling where the Fil-Am vote will go. Prior to the Clinton years, California was Republican under Reagan. Despite erroneous national perception that Hollywood liberal, left-leaning celebs reflect the sentiments of most Californians, there may yet be some surprises left in this race. Stranger things have happened.

Since the mainstream media can no longer be trusted to provide fair and balanced journalism, as displayed during Hillary's primary run and more recently, with the biased and prejudiced interrogation of Palin by ABC's Charles Gibson

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