

PROTECTING RIGHT & \$



ATTY. JOEL R. BANDER

H-1B visas still available

duct lottery once the ceiling has been reached.

Last year, USCIS issued a regulation allowing a minimum window of five business days for USCIS to receive H-1B cap-subject cases and thereafter, run a random lottery selection to determine which cases filed within this window will be eligible for a cap number. This is due to the excessive number of petitions received. However, for this year, the general cap has not been met during the five-day window, giving rise to the speculation that no general lottery will be conducted. Some predict a "mini lottery" for cases filed after the five-day window if the number of additional filings exceeds the remainder of the cap. Until USCIS makes an announcement, it is not certain how the selection will be made.

One thing is certain, though. Those who failed to beat the April 1 rush can still file their petition and hope to be selected for processing. They still have time, but must act NOW.

Contact Bander Law Firm now to know if H-1B is an appropriate visa petition for

you. H-1B is a temporary work visa for individuals with a bachelor's or higher degree to be employed in a professional occupation. The petition must be filed by a US employer on behalf of a foreign beneficiary. If the beneficiary is presently in the United States as a nonimmigrant, he must be in valid status to apply for a change of status. The petition may also be filed for a beneficiary outside the United States, in which case, the visa will be applied for and issued in the US consulate in the beneficiary's home country.

Bander Law Firm, LLP has been providing immigration services for over 15 years and has multilingual staff. Feel free to call Bander Law Firm, LLP at 213-873-4333 to schedule your consultation regarding your legal concerns. Bander Law Firm provides a full range of legal services in the fields of Immigration, Mortgage Litigation, Personal Injury, Bankruptcy, Criminal and Removal Defense, Civil and Business Litigation, Wage and Hour Litigation and Class Action lawsuits.

Bander Law Firm, LLP Downtown office address: 1055 W. 7th Street, Suite 1950, Los Angeles, CA, 90017. Tel: (213) 873-4333 Fax: (213) 873-4334. San Gabriel Office address: 1045 E. Valley Blvd., #A215, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Email: info@banderlaw.com.

(Advertising Supplement)

HOME BUYERS



KENNETH GO

AS HOME sales increase due to pent up buyer demand in California, there has been decrease in number of properties available. This might be apparent that the bottom of the market might have hit about six months ago. Housing Predictor projects the California housing market to be in a recovery by late summer. Now, there are still areas that are depressed and still might see another 3-6% decrease in values.

It will take years for the Golden State to recover fully. Despite the credit crunch, an ailing economy, increasing foreclosures and growing unemployment California will join Florida in coming out of the housing mess. The growing volume of home sales is aiding the state's recovery. A special \$10,000 state tax credit for home buyers, \$8,000 federal tax credit and the lowest mortgage interest rates on record are getting home buyers off the fence. MCC (Mortgage Credit Certificate) is another source of tax credit that buyers can apply for if they qualify to get more tax credits and some city assistance program. Another one would be NACA a non profit organization that helps homebuyers and homeowners needing some government assistance.

More than anywhere else in the country, California has been through major ups and downs in housing prices. Every time it happens more people move out of the state than move into California. But that means little to true Californians, who keep their residences in the state known for being the leader in dozens of industries. After all, it is the Golden State, the home of Hollywood and the best weather in the nation.

As the recessionary econo-

California real estate market

my worsens in Los Angeles, home prices are falling at some of the fastest rates in the country. Record high foreclosures are hurting, but have triggered an increase in home sales. Mortgage companies and banks are slashing prices in order to unload inventory before the second round of foreclosures hits. Greater Los Angeles area home values are forecast to deflate an average of 20.1% in 2009.

2009 Market Watch

- City Forecast**
- Los Angeles - 20.1%
 - Riverside - 19.2%
 - Inland Empire - 21.2%
 - Anaheim - 19.3%
 - San Diego - 17.3%
 - San Jose - 19.2%
 - San Francisco - 17.6%
 - Oakland - 18.2%
 - Orange County - 19.3%
 - Fresno - 23.1%
 - Bakersfield - 19.3%
 - Tulare - 19.8%
 - Sacramento - 15.7%
 - Stockton - 26.4%

Foreclosures have been selling in Riverside, Ontario and San Bernardino, also known as the Inland Empire and as one of the hardest hit foreclosure capitals of the nation. The disastrous epidemic has battered neighborhoods and left foreclosed homes vacant. The Inland Empire is forecast to deflate an average of 21.2% in 2009. But Riverside and San Bernadino counties for year 2009 first quarter sold 100% more homes compared to the first quarter of 2008, what does that tell you?

In San Diego home sales have also picked up due to

lower prices. The erosion in housing values is projected to remain high in 2009 and is forecast to deflate 17.3% on average for the year.

The collapse of the housing market took longer in San Jose in the San Francisco Bay area than many other places in the state. But as San Jose and neighboring Santa Clara home prices deflate the market will make inroads towards stabilization. San Jose is forecast to deflate 19.2% on average in 2009.

In San Francisco home values are deflating at a more rapid rate than they had been, and are projected to worsen over the coming year. Deflation in home and condo prices is forecast to hit an average of 17.6% in 2009. The City by The Bay is feeling the pain of the credit crisis, but has the economic strength to handle the housing downturn much better than many other areas of the country.

In the East Bay in Oakland, subprime and Alt A mortgage foreclosures have been at one of the highest rates in the state. The market has seen an up tick in sales, but is projected to remain slow through 2009 on average housing deflation forecast at 18.2%.

But up in the state's capital of Sacramento, which has been one of the states hardest hit areas, the increase in foreclosure sales is also helping to boost the ailing home market. The crisis is forecast to deflate home values in Sacramento another 15.7% by year's end.

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BARRISTER'S CORNER



ATTY. KENNETH URSUA REYES

Does my child support garnishment automatically terminate once my child turns 18?

(emancipated) before reaching the age of majority. A disabled adult child is entitled to child support beyond this period. (Fam.Code, §§ 3901.)

Even if any of the above conditions are met, the child support wage garnishment will not automatically terminate. Child support obligors whose earnings are being garnished through wage assignment do not automatically stop when a child attains the age of majority. The obligor must obtain a court order to stop the wages from being automatically paid to the other parent. This can be done by agreement with the other parent otherwise called a stipulation and order. If an agreement cannot be reached, then the obligor

will have to file an Order to Show Cause, set a hearing, and request that the Court terminate Child Support and vacate the wage assignment order. The obligor will then have to request a new wage assignment order for zero to be issued by the Court. The obligor must be current in his child support obligations to get this.

Attorney Kenneth Ursua Reyes was President of the Philippine American Bar Association. He is a member of both the Family law section and Immigration law section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He has extensive CPA experience prior to law practice. Law Offices of Kenneth Reyes, P.C. is located at 3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA, 90010. Tel. (213) 388-1611 or e-mail kureyeslaw@aol.com. Website kenreyeslaw.com

(Advertising Supplement)

Asian American Justice Center becomes 2010 census partner

Organization to provide resources and information to Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities

WASHINGTON, DC - The US Census Bureau announced recently its partnership with the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) for the upcoming 2010 Census.

AAJC, a leading national human and civil rights organization, will assist the Census Bureau in its outreach efforts to educate Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders about the importance of participating in the 2010 Census by working with regional and local partner organizations.

"AAJC is pleased to support the upcoming 2010 Census," stated Karen Narasaki, president and executive director of AAJC. "We will work closely with the Census Bureau, our local and regional partners and Asian media to encourage all individuals and families to fill out and mail back the 2010 Census questionnaire next year."

"We are proud to partner with the Asian American Justice Center for this upcoming census. AAJC will play an important role in raising awareness about the 2010 Census and ensuring that all Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are counted," said Tom Mesenbourg, acting director of the

Census Bureau.

As part of the partnership, AAJC plans to provide communities with culturally and language-appropriate information to supplement those developed by the Census Bureau.

In order to reach younger AAPIs with 2010 Census messages and information, AAJC is adding a creative viral platform for individuals to chat about census issues through online social networks, blogs and discussion groups.

"It is imperative that our communities understand that the information collected in the 2010 Census determines congressional representation and how more than \$300 billion a year in federal funds is distributed," said Narasaki. "We look forward to doing our part in conveying this to all Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities."

For more information about the Asian American Justice Center and the 2010 Census, please visit www.advancingequality.org/census and www.2010.census.gov.

Filipino Caucus launches concert and 'Walk' for Philippine Mission

by REVS. PADDY PADILLA AND NEIL PLATON

THE Filipino Caucus of the California Pacific Annual Conference (CAL-PAC) launches two fund raising projects to help raise money for the Manaoag church building mission in Pangasinan, Philippines set on February 15-28, 2010. The executive committee of the Filipino Caucus headed by Rev. Mike de Guzman approved the concert featuring the famous Filipino folk rock group "Asin" and the "Ang Grupong Pendong" to be held at the Wilshire United Methodist Church in October, and the "Walk for the Manaoag Mission" which is scheduled on August 8 at the Encanto Park in Duarte, California.

A team of volunteers, composed of both clergy and laity, headed by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson is leaving for the Philippines on February 15, 2010 to reconstruct a run down Methodist church in the century-old town of Manaoag in the province

of Pangasinan. This town is considered by the Filipino Catholics as the "pilgrimage shrine" of the northern Philippines because of the revered patroness bearing the same name. The province name is derived from the word, "asin" (salt). The town is about 106 miles north of Manila.

The Filipino folk and rock group called "Asin" and "Ang Grupong Pendong" are known for their use of indigenous musical instruments popularly used in the southern Philippines. Their unique musical styles are aimed at promoting and raising social awareness of the needs of various ethnic groups in that part of the country. Recently, the group briefly performed for free at the United Methodist Church of the San Gabriel Valley in Hacienda Heights, Ca to introduce themselves to local people.

Meanwhile, a five-mile "Walk for the 2010 Manaoag Mission" is simultaneously set for August 8, 2009, 7 a.m. at the sprawling and panoramic Encanto Park in the city of Duarte, CA. About

50 walkers or marathoners are expected to participate in the whole day event featuring a potluck picnic, games and fellowship designed for the entire family. Each walker will have a "sponsor" who would donate \$20 per mile. The proceeds are also earmarked for the Manaoag mission in 2010.

To date, the Filipino Caucus has sent five missions to the Philippines in the last several years that include reconstruction and medical missions in the remote barrios in Nueva Viscaya, Isabela, Bulacan, Aurora, and Mindanao. This will be the sixth mission work team sponsored by CALPAC-Filipino Caucus jointly.

For more information on tickets and these two events, please contact Reverends Dante Simon (209-450-3031) Jeremiah Castorillo (909-267-0204) Neil Platon (310-613-4273), for the "walk", Paddy Padilla (310-895-5830). For the 2010 trip, contact Rev. Emy Hernandez at (909-886-2242) or Rev. de Guzman (626-534-5272).

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- You are classified as a professional (for example, accountant or chemist) but do not have a California license and are not paid overtime.
- You are not provided a 30-minute uninterrupted meal break or a 10-minute rest break.
- You are classified as an independent contractor without overtime pay or benefits even though the employer controls your work.
- You are a nurse or healthcare employee and paid different hourly rates for the same job, depending on the hours of your shift.

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