

YOUR IMMIGRATION SOLUTION



ATTY. ROBERT REEVES

HOW do international film stars, professional athletes and Nobel-prize winning scientists who are citizens of foreign countries work in the United States? Despite their fame and international stature, like other foreign nationals they still require a visa to work in the United States. As a result, many of these "superstars" have at one time or another most likely applied for an O or P visa to allow them to do just that.

However, one does not necessarily need to be an international film or sports star, or have won the Nobel Prize, in order to obtain an O or P visa. O and P visas allow foreign nationals who may not qualify for other work visas to instead work in the United States in a field based on their national or international acclaim or talent. Typically, many artists, athletes, entertainers, chefs, business people lacking professional

degrees and others who excel in their field of work can qualify for O or P visas. In fact, the O visa is sometimes the preferred alternative for workers who qualify for professional occupations under the H-1B visa because there is no minimum wage or education requirement, no limitation on the time spent in the United States, and no cap on the number of visas issued per year as there is under the H-1B visa.

However, in order to qualify for an O visa, the foreign national must demonstrate "sustained national or international acclaim" in the field of sciences, arts, education, business or athletics. While this can be shown through the receipt of a major international award such as the Nobel Prize, those who have not achieved this standard but who have still distinguished themselves in their field may also qualify for an O visa. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) considers a variety of factors in deciding whether a foreign national qualifies for an O visa including, but not limited to, if the person received national or

O AND P VISAS:

Are you a superstar?

international awards, is a member of a prominent association or organization in his field, or has been featured in published material such as newspaper or magazine articles. Once approved for an O visa, a foreign national can work in the United States for up to three years initially and renew his visa each year as needed.

A foreign national may also try to apply for a P visa. P visas differ from O visas in that they are generally limited to athletes and entertainers. These include individuals such as professional baseball and basketball players and circus acts or acting troupes visiting the United States. Under certain circumstances, culturally unique artists and entertainers may also qualify. In order to qualify for P visas, foreign nationals must show that they have accomplished "a high level of achievement in the field..." in which they specialize. This standard is generally easier to meet than the standard set forth under the O visa. However, while certain individual athletes may remain in the United States for up to

five years under the P visa, most groups are limited to the time needed to participate in their event or complete their performance in the United States, not to exceed one year.

While a foreign national may not be an international film or sports star or a Nobel prize-winning scientist, if he has made significant achievements in the fields of athletics, the arts, entertainment, or various other fields, then the foreign national may still qualify for a work visa in the United States if there is a US employer willing to employ him in that field. Given the complex regulations involving O and P visas, and the amount of documentation required to support such a petition, it is recommended that a foreign national seek consultation with an immigration attorney familiar with O and P visas to determine whether he might qualify for such a visa.

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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case.

(Advertising Supplement)

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Subic association reunion 2009 in Las Vegas

The Subic Association of San Diego is presently inviting openly all alumni of Subic's Saint James School who are domiciled in the U.S. or abroad to their grand reunion on July 25, 2009, at the Santa Fe Station Hotel, North Rancho Dr, Las Vegas Nevada. Top highlight of the affair is the attendance of Philippine-based Bishop Teodoro Bacani, who is to officiate in a thanksgiving Mass as a prelude to activities centering on an admixture of social, cultural, and educational orientations.

Many Fil-Ams hereabouts originated from Subic, and they had become well familiar with Bishop Bacani when he served as parish priest there during the 1980's. It was at the later part of his incumbency as pastor of the Saint James parish that his ecclesiastical services eventually saw him rise to his present high post in the Philippine Catholic hierarchy. A Subicquenan throng is thus expected for the reunion— with the bishop's presence serving as a culturally necessary beaconing influence.

It is to a big credit of the Subicqueniens leading the San Diego-based association that Subic's Saint James School has been over the years enjoying no little dispensation of financial aid, thanks to its alumni's open palming out of donations thru the association's sponsorship of their periodical homecoming. As a yearly routine, the association grants scholarship funds for deserving poor students enrolled in the Saint James School for want of Christian tenets-based education— understandably as engendered by parental desire. Then, as need arises, physical improvements are made possible only because of cash aid granted to the school by the association. One typical example in this regard is the school's reconstructed fence that was entirely funded out of a \$3,500.00- cash aid, with the amount enjoyed intact by the fence construction's contractor.

To lend a hand in raising fund, a Subicquenan writer had recently proffered to have the whole cash equivalent of his author privilege-based discount of 50% enjoyed by the association, simply thru its coordination of the market disposal of a book, titled "How to Get "A" Grades in School," that the writer had authored. Based on a 30-year exposure to practically every nature of all-grade level classroom situations, the book is penned by Angel N. Pagaduan, a Saint James School alumnus '50, with the following expected as its sure outcomes: 1) Upped learning performance to achievement levels proportionate to the extent at which students would follow the book; 2) Concomitant character enrichment

via its stimuli-rich, inspirational real-life illustrations vis-à-vis every ilk of schooling misconduct including truancy, academic disconnection, acts of extraneous or covert nature; and 3) Perpetual usability as a pragmatic means/resource by which parents— even under once-in-a-while progress check amid their busy hours— could vicariously reinforce desired efficacies supposedly of their own home counseling for their children's schooling.

Anyone wishing to relive the rejuvenating joys of friendship renewal and camaraderie of adolescence's bygone years in a beloved alma mater and a town of common origin has only to call on the association's leaders, namely: Mae Llamado-Esteban (619) 946-7139, Lilina O. Nacario (619) 656-9150, and Precy Protacio (619) 475-1575— who are all assigned immediate contact officers by Jaime "Jing" Eclar, association president. ■

Ensign Commemorates Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator John Ensign made the following statement in recognition of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: "Since the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States 166 years ago, Asian/Pacific Americans have made a pronounced and profound impact on this country. Nevada continues to be home to one of the fastest growing Asian American/Pacific Islander populations in the country. We are a better state and country because of the countless contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans, and I consider my Filipino heritage as a sense of pride."

"I hope that the month of May brings greater recognition of the role of Asian and Pacific Americans in our nation—past and present."

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The perfect gifts...

From PAGE B5

- nient dry erase board and marker.
 - Whether she enjoys an early morning pick me up or an evening cup-a-java, the cooks 12-Cup Coffeemaker (\$29.99) is a great way to brighten both her day and her kitchen décor! Available in six colors.
 - Shake up her routine with the colorful cooks Blender (\$79.99). Available in six colors.
 - The cooks Cook Book (\$19.99) is full of delicious recipes that can be personalized with mom's secret ingredients and special touches – the perfect gift for moms that love to cook and entertain.
 - Let mom reminisce about all of your precious moments together with the Pandigital Touch Screen Digital Frame (\$109.99).
 - Give her the gift of music with the 1GB MP3 Player (\$19.99) – a sound gift for all moms on the go!
- JCPenney's combination of great fashions, affordable price points, convenience of more than 1,000 stores nationwide, and jcp.com will help make Mother's Day shopping as simple as possible.
- For a quick glimpse at all the Mother's Day items listed above, take a look at our online photo gallery:
<http://newsroom.mbooth.com/JCPenney/LookBooks/Holiday/main.php/v/mom>

(Advertising Supplement)

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Happy Mother's Day!

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