



CHRISTOPHER DE LEON THIS SUNDAY ON CITIZEN PINOY! "Drama King" Christopher de Leon (left), his wife, the beautiful and talented Sandy Andolong (2nd from left), and his sister Melissa de Leon (2nd from right) join "attorney-to-the-stars" Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for an enlightening and informative episode of the most popular immigration program on television, where they discuss "instant" US Citizenship. Citizen Pinoy - airs this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Tuesday, at 11:35 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).

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

RECENTLY, a woman came to my office, after her application for an extension of stay was denied. She and her husband had entered the US on visitor's visas, and were given 6 months. While visiting, the husband had a stroke and was hospitalized. So, they applied for an extension in order that she could take care of her husband as he underwent treatment and therapy. This would seem like a very legitimate and compelling reason justifying an extension. However, after the request for the extension had been filed, the husband was concerned about the mounting medical expenses, and decided it was best to return to the Philippines and receive further treatment there. His wife remained in the US, awaiting the decision of her extension request. Imagine her surprise when her extension was denied and the decision noted that although the husband had a stroke in June 2008, "USCIS records show that your husband departed the United States on September 16, 2008." She had not informed the US Citizen-

DHS can track and monitor your whereabouts

ship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that her husband had departed and yet, the USCIS, on its own, was able to check various data bases, and pinpoint the exact date that her husband departed the US. So, the reason for seeking the extension (to care for her husband) became moot. I know that there are many situations where people attempt to back-date or back-stamp their arrival in the Philippines, hoping to hide the actual amount of time that they spent in the US, making it appear that they did not overstay. Others, who are in the U.S., and still have 10 year multiple entry visas try to take "secret vacations" to the Philippines, despite being out of status, thinking their travels could be covered up by the back-stamps, avoiding the 3/10 year bar. These people somehow felt safe that they can travel without DHS detecting their arrivals or departures. However, please bear in mind that when you check-in at the airport, you are required to give the airline representative your passport. That representative then scans the bar codes on your passport, which is fed into their computer database and creates the passenger manifest. That data is then provided to the Department

of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at airports and other ports of entry. So, even if a person tries to back-date, (or no date) their arrivals or departures in the Philippines, DHS can still track and monitor your true travels and whereabouts. That is why it is so important, especially for people who are in the US but out of status, that they don't play games with themselves or their travel plans, as a departure from the US could trigger a 3/10 year bar if discovered. And, this woman's denial clearly demonstrates how effective the DHS' systems is in discovering your (or your family's) travels.

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. The information contained herein (including testimonials, "Success Stories", endorsements and re-enactments) is of a general nature, and is not intended to apply to any particular case, and does not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established with any reader. Website: www.gurfinkel.com Call Toll free to schedule a consultation for anywhere in the US: (866) - GURFINKEL Four offices to serve you: LOS ANGELES - SAN FRANCISCO - NEW YORK - PHILIPPINES (Advertising Supplement)

JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

AMERICA'S best facilities, more often than not, work with healthcare staffing agencies to connect them to nurses, therapists and allied healthcare professionals. Thus, a lot of healthcare workers go to agencies to seek placement. As staffing agencies do the hiring and human resource management for these facilities, you, as a professional, will work with the agency on almost every matter concerning your job. So when hunting for an agency, you need to know how to choose the right one. Below are some guidelines. Salary and benefits are important criteria when selecting an agency, but not the most important ones. Understand that these companies make a living by practically managing your career. You need to know how the agency cares about you, both as a professional and as a person. What support system can they offer you when you get a job? Will they assist you in relocating if the new job requires it? Can you reach them after office hours for emergencies? What opportunities do they provide for you to grow professionally? Getting answers to these questions will give you an idea

What you need to know when choosing a healthcare staffing agency

of how supportive they are of you and your career. Second, see if the agency can actually get you a job. Although it's true that the healthcare industry always has a vacancy to fill, it takes an experienced recruiter to finalize a placement. Ask them about the lag between your application and actual placement. Inquire if they were actually able to deploy previous applicants in the facility or location of their choice. Assess how capable the agency is in giving you a job before committing to one; try asking the number of placements they've had the past year. The best agencies are the ones that guarantee you a job, and actually get it for you. Third, a good staffing agency is one that offers flexibility in terms of programs and types of placements. The more their options are, the more opportunities they can give you. Review the type of staffing positions they offer such as permanent, travel or per diem. Their variety of employment options equates to more possibilities for you career-wise. Lastly, ensure that the healthcare staffing agency you're working with pays on time and provides benefits. An established agency definitely pays on time, usually, via direct deposit. Typical benefits you should look for are health insurance and 401k

options. Also, talk to them about salary increases and see if working with them actually elevates your chance of a progressing income. There are a multitude of healthcare staffing agencies today, mainly because of the growing demand for healthcare professionals everywhere. As one of those in-demand individuals, you need to be able to partner with the right agency to get you to where you want to be. Your success as a nurse, therapist or allied health professional begins by choosing the right company that will guide and lead you to the job you've invested years of your life to get; this is why choosing the right agency is crucial. Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruit RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO has offices in New York, and in New Jersey where it offers homecare services. JUNO Healthcare Staffing Systems, Inc. 411 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1006 New York, NY 10016 T 212-685-5866 F 212-685-5867 Website: http://www.junohealthcare.com JUNO Healthcare New Jersey, Inc. 35 Journal Square, Suite 825 Jersey City, NJ 07306 T 201-239-9333 F 201-239-9093 Website: http://www.junohealthcare.com (Advertising Supplement)

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

IF you haven't received an email offering you a generous proposition of being the beneficiary of an unclaimed bank account with millions of dollars somewhere in Africa, e.g. Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast (you learn lessons in geography), then you are an exception. If you haven't received an email stating you have won a fortune in a UK lottery, even if you haven't bought a ticket, then you are an exception. Behold the dark side of the electronic age in this millennium. The highwayman of old lurked in the dark and preyed on the unwary; the hold-upper used to lie in wait in a grimy street corner and pounced on his prey. These days, to go about his dastardly deed, he sits in a corner of his room, possibly in his pajamas trolling the net, banging away on a keyboard or frequents some smoke-filled internet café hatching schemes, halfway around the world. The electronic age has brought us wonders and unbelievable convenience defying space/time constraints allowing us to do things we can only do in previous times if we were physically present in one place. With an internet connection, we can do great and wonderful things that were the stuff of science fiction not so long ago. But there is a downside to the electronic age. The amount of available crud on the net is staggering. The level of sophistication is up. Those of us who log on to the net are all at risk, unless and until we take the necessary psychological precautions to deal with this and become relatively "scam proof." No one is sacrosanct. These scams, like the monumental Ponzi scheme in the \$65 billion magnitude perpetrated by Bernie Madoff who incidentally, will rot in jail with little recompense to those he scammed, are designed to prey upon two

Of scams, suckers and the wheels of justice (A Redux)

"There is a sucker born every minute." -P. T. Barnum

basic weaknesses in our human nature: GREED and FEAR. For the little people out of the orbit of the riches of Madoff, who scammed the liked and powerful, however, here's one blanket caveat to keep us on our toes about how lottery scams and propositions of huge fortunes left in orphaned accounts and how these cons played out in cyberspace. REMEMBER - and this can't be emphasized often enough, on this matter, and perhaps, other significant areas of life - IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS. Okay, repeat that as your mantra. A smidgen of cynicism will serve us all in good stead. The scams that feed on greed are so sophisticated that scammers can send a seemingly authentic check, complete with watermarks, by mail from a real sounding bank with so many zeroes on it. If you bite at the first overture, they then ask for a processing fee and get all pertinent information from you so you can get the rest of the "winings." This is called the Nigerian scam apparently because the first perpetrators allegedly were well educated but destitute Nigerians who found that their facility for the English language could be exploited to scam millions using the internet. The scam has spread and morphed with mind-boggling variations, from Russia to China to Japan, but with only one nefarious purpose. To be fair, the scam is no longer just Nigerian but has become international with many copycats. No one race or culture has the monopoly on these. These can originate anywhere in the world. If you have not consciously joined any lottery, why in heaven's name would you think you have a snowball's chance in hell of winning even one thin dime? Also, legitimate lotteries will NEVER, repeat NEVER, ask you for money in order for a winner to claim a prize.

Some scams feed on your fear. One of the most deceptive things is to receive an email from your bank instructing you to click on a link and verify your information since someone supposedly is accessing your account and if you don't verify your information, particularly your pin number, password, this can result in a temporary hold on your funds. Yeah, right. I received an authentic looking email from Bank of America with such a story line. The thing is I don't have an existing account and reading the fine print below and editing the grammatical errors are red flags that tell me these con artists have breached my spam guard. No legitimate financial entity will ask you for information of such nature. If you do have an account, cut these scammers off at the knees with the simple expediency of calling the fraud unit of your bank or credit card company yourself. Take the bull by the horns. Generate the call. Get the telephone number from your statement or your card and DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER that the caller or e-mailer provided you with. It's a trap. Report such emails as spam. Don't just delete it. Sure, they will morph into another form but be proactive and make it more difficult for them. These scams are like viruses or shape shifters and can mutate faster than the speed of light. PC users are more vulnerable to spammers/scammers and pesky pop-ups than Mac users. C'est la vie. Is there karmic justice? Because con artists rarely ever see the faces of their victims or know the full extent of the damage that they wreak on real people with real lives, these crimes seem impersonal in nature and rarely, if ever, do con artists get their comeuppance, at least in the physical world, where they would

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