

IMMIGRATION CORNER

May 2009 priority dates

No more working green cards available



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

The May priority dates for the Philippines are as follows:		
FAMILY CATEGORY:		Priority Date
First Preference	Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)	August 1, 1993 <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was the same)</i>
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	October 8, 2004 <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was August 15, 2004)</i>
	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	February 1, 1998 <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was January 15, 1998.)</i>
Third Preference	Married sons and daughters of US citizens.	June 22, 1991 <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was June 15, 1991.)</i>
Fourth Preference	Brothers and sisters of US citizens.	July 8, 1986 <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was June 22, 1986.)</i>
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/skilled workers	Unavailable <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was March 1, 2003.)</i>
Other workers	Non-skilled workers	Unavailable <i>(In April 2009, the priority date was March 1, 2001.)</i>

THE May 2009 priority dates bring bad news to workers who are under petition in the 3rd preference category (professional/skilled workers) as well as unskilled workers. The Visa Office of the State Department announced that visas for workers in these categories are "unavailable", probably until at least October 2009. This means that these workers will not be able to get their green cards (either through adjustment of status if in the US, or immigrant visa at the Embassy) until starting October 2009, assuming their priority date will be "current" once again.

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

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 7 days from June 15, 1991 to June 22, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 16 days from



Sassy & Witty Multimedia Star joins "Attorney-to-the-Stars" on Citizen Pinoy! Talented artist and consummate host... the perfect role model for today's young woman - Toni Gonzaga (left) joins Atty. Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) for a lively and informative episode about Toni's entertainer visa and first trip to the U.S. on the most popular U.S. immigration show on television. 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 1 am with replays on Sunday at 9 am and Thursday at 8 pm, all PST; and on ANC - Philippines every Sunday at 4 pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday and Friday at 11 am (Manila time).

June 22, 1986 to July 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 and 23 days, from August 15, 2004 to October 8, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by

17 days from January 15, 1998 to February 1, 1998.

Petitions by Employers
The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) "retrogressed" (or moved backwards) from March 1, 2003 to unavailable. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers also retrogressed from March 1, 2001 to unavailable.

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 immi-

grant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the U.S.), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

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.
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How not to dial M for murder

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

"Those children who are beaten will in turn give beatings, those who are intimidated will be intimidating, those who are humiliated will impose humiliation, and those whose souls are murdered will murder." -Alice Miller

UNLESS you're an ostrich with your head buried in the sand, you couldn't have missed the up tick in the rash of mass murders and murder suicides in recent times, in many places in the US. There's a common thread — one man driven by rage, jealousy, paranoia, desperation, depression over economic pressures, family problems or just plain deranged, decided he can't take it anymore and instead of committing suicide, decide to inflict murder and mayhem killing several others, either his own family members or total strangers. By last count, there were 7 mass murders committed by ordinary people since the beginning of 2009, with a total casualty count, including the murderers themselves nearing 60 before the first 100 days of the year were over. Is this a social trend? Pundits and talking heads predict that as the recession becomes more firmly entrenched, we can expect more of this type of horror.

With each horrific case, the public seems to become more inured and desensitized to violence and death, becoming more accepting of all these, as a normal feature of modern life. Ever since the Columbine mass murder perpetrated by 2 young misguided misfits garbed in black trench coats about 10 years ago, things haven't been the same. There were copycats exhibiting lemming-like behavior since then. Evil glamorized by repetition and attention-getting drama seems to have morphed into many other incidents in North America and elsewhere, resulting in incalculable, untold pain and suffering among families of the victims. We remember with great pain the Virginia Tech mass murder which snuffed out the lives of 32, including Cho, the killer, who was a quiet, deranged malcontent who never quite fit in. In the blogosphere chatter, many noted that perpetrators of this troubling trend were often the quiet ones. Word is out on the street to watch out for the quiet "pressure cooker" types, those who never cause a ripple and yet, has a fondness for weapons, but who can implode and explode with volcanic intensity and wipe out those around them.

In the past month alone, a young gun enthusiast from Alabama, depressed over his life and who kept mostly to himself, killed 5 members of his own family and 5 other total strangers at random in a barrage of gunfire before taking his own life. A Vietnamese immigrant, Jiverly Wong, aka Vuong, a quiet, social misfit and also a gun enthusiast, driven by severe paranoia and frustrated over his "poor life" and poor English skills, gunned down 12 others in an immigrant center, 10 of whom came from 8 countries and who were students just trying to learn English as a second language. One was a Filipina, Dolores Yigal, a recent immigrant who was studying so she could find a job. One was a long time substitute teacher named Roberta King. One was an Iraqi woman who survived 3 car bombs in her native Iraq and left behind a devastated family, a daughter at the Sorbonne in Paris and another daughter, a Fulbright scholar. All these lives were cut off by one sorry excuse for a human being in one fell swoop.

Among ordinary families from all strata and from nearly every ethnic group, there has also been a rash of killings among fathers who have decided they have failed and will kill themselves and are taking their whole family with them. On rare occasions, it is a mother who does it. Sometimes, the sick and the elderly decide to take matters into their own hands and end it all. The murder suicide rate among families is on the rise, thankfully not in epidemic proportions just yet as to cause panic. Perhaps, this is fueled by the effects of the economic downturn, with mounting financial pressures and with an unprecedented number of foreclosures, forcibly displacing families from their nests. And yet to merely focus on economics as the root of this troubling phenomenon is shortsighted and misses the whole point.

After all the news vans are gone from the crime scene, after the vacuous words of any sitting president have been said, after all references to the story are buried in the inside pages and eventually ground to a halt on the internet, and when the grieving families have no more tears to shed, many questions as to why such things happen with alarming frequency remain unanswered.

There seems to be a moral turpitude that ails a society that looks at murder suicide as an option. This much is certain, when extreme hubris rules the heart and mind, there will always be a lack of personal responsibility and accountability when something goes wrong. It was always because of someone else's fault or because of a set of circumstances. We tend to blame everything else but ourselves. The tendency to shirk responsibility is probably wired into our DNA right at the Garden of Eden with Eve playing the blame game early on. The