



CITIZEN PINOY RETURNS TO MANILA ON JUNE 21! Let your friends and relatives back in the Philippines know that they have another chance to be part of the live studio audience of Citizen Pinoy on Sunday, June 21st at the ABS-CBN Studios along Mother Ignacia cor. Sgt. Esquerro Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Taping will be at 10 am; 1:00 pm; and 4:00 pm. Leading US immigration attorney MICHAEL J. GURFINKEL will be there to answer your immigration questions and provide relevant information that you will all find useful. There will be celebrity co-hosts for each taping session too! As a public service from TFC and the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkel, seats are FREE, but you need to reserve now at www.citizenpinoy.com or call (011)(632) 894-0239 or (011)(632)894-0258 - 9:00am-3:00pm (Mondays-Fridays); 7:00am-11:00am (Saturdays) - (Philippine time). CITIZEN PINOY - airs every Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Wednesday, at 12:15 am (PST) on TFC. CITIZEN PINOY also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 am 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 am every Monday.

DAYS AWAY FROM DEPORTATION TO GREEN CARD! Maria (2nd from left) arrived in the US in 1992 dreaming of a better life. Her dreams were immediately shattered when she was taken into custody as soon as she set foot on American soil! For more than 10 years, Maria was in the dark. Even her marriage to US citizen Rick (2nd from right), was not enough to legalize her stay. This couple and their children faced one obstacle after another, and she was about to be sent back to the Philippines by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Find out how hope was restored and the sun came smiling down on the Tuck family when Atty. Michael J. Gurfinkel brings you Citizen Pinoy - airs this Sunday, at 5:40pm (PST) with a replay on Wednesday, at 12:15am (PST), on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12am with replays on Sunday at 8am and Thursday at 7pm, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 4pm with a replay at 12am every Monday.



Citizen Pinoy Returns to Manila this June!

NOW in its eighth season, *Citizen Pinoy* is still going strong and remains an indispensable tool for understanding the many complex laws of immigration. In line with The Filipino Channel's commitment to public service, and because our loved ones back in the homeland never seem to run out of immigration issues or questions, ABS-CBN International is bringing Atty. Gurfinkel back to Manila for live audience tapings!

Taping in Manila is on JUNE 21 (Sunday) at the ABS-CBN Studios, ABS-CBN Broadcast Center, Mother Ignacia corner Sgt. Esquerro Ave, Diliman, Quezon City. There are three (3) taping schedules to choose from: 10am/ 1pm/ 4pm. As a public service from the TFC and the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkel, seats are FREE, but you need to reserve now at www.citizenpinoy.com or, from the Philippines, call 894-0239 or 894-0258.

Let your friends and relatives in the Philippines know, so they can join Attorney Gurfinkel, along with several "surprise" celebrity co-hosts, at the live taping. This is definitely another golden opportunity for "kapamilya" and their loved ones back in the Philippines to express their

concerns and ask their questions regarding US immigration.

Citizen Pinoy is made possible with the support of our sponsors, who are committed to giving back to the Filipino community: *Asian Journal*—with circulation in Northern and Southern California, Nevada, and in the East Coast; and Arko Foods, the oldest Filipino Store in Glendale. *Citizen Pinoy* is also supported by ABS-CBN Global's key product offerings: Star Kargo, Starry Starry Store, ABS-CBN Telecom and TFCDirect.

Informative. Entertaining. Inspiring. Let your family and friends who have immigration concerns back in the Philippines know to reserve their seats now and be there when *Citizen Pinoy* returns to Manila on June 21 (Sunday) at the ABS-CBN Studios in Quezon City.

Citizen Pinoy—airs every Sunday, at 5:40pm (PST) with a replay on Wednesday, at 12:15am (PST) on TFC. *Citizen Pinoy* also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12am with replays on Sunday at 8 am and Thursday at 7pm, all PST; and on ANC-Philippines every Sunday at 4pm with a replay at 12am every Monday. ■

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

Part 2

IN a previous article, I discussed some of the reasons why it is a good idea to hire an attorney for your case, especially for your interview or hearing, rather than trying to save money and do it on your own. After all, you have waited so long to achieve your "American dream", so I'm sure that you don't want anything to happen just as you are about to "cross the finish line". At the interview, you may be tired, frightened, nervous, or your mind may go blank for even the most simple of questions, resulting in your saying or doing the wrong thing. That could result in your case being further investigated or possibly being denied, even if you are legitimately eligible for your visa.

While having an attorney representing you does not "guarantee" that your case will be approved, I think that it could greatly increase your chances, for the following reasons:

1. An attorney can brief or prepare you for your interview or hearing. An attorney can explain to you far in advance of your interview (or hearing), what to expect, the types of questions that may be asked of you, and the correct way to answer those questions, etc. In an interview or hearing, you may be asked a question, and you try to truthfully answer the question. But the answer comes out wrong, because you somehow didn't say what you really meant to, did not provide a full answer, or you may have misunderstood the question, and gave an answer that did not

Why it's a good idea to have an attorney for your interview or hearing

fit the question. This may spark suspicion, or create additional questions in the mind of the examiner or judge. You may be rescheduled for another interview, and/or your case could be placed under investigation, therefore prolonging the case. With proper preparation and briefing by an attorney, you could possibly avoid this from happening.

2. An attorney can help you gather the necessary documents. Before the interview or hearing, an attorney can make sure that all the necessary and important documents have been gathered, and will be available at the time of the interview or hearing. This could avoid your "forgetting" to bring some important document to your interview, and then having to come back another day, perhaps weeks or months later, or your application being delayed or denied. Or an attorney can evaluate your documents, and determine what documents are needed. In other words, the Interviewing Officer may only want documents that have a direct bearing on your case and eligibility. If you bring a box full of papers that have no bearing on your case, it could possibly complicate matters.

3. An attorney can make sure your rights are protected at the interview or hearing. There are many complications that can arise during interviews. For example, the interviewing officer may suspect fraud, and ask the person to sign a confession. Without an attorney to advise him, this person may go ahead and sign the confession, out of fear and confusion, without even reading it, because he will be very confused and scared, and would not know what rights, remedies, and relief

are available to him.

There are other complications that a person may not be able to properly explain to an interviewing officer or an Immigration Judge, like the existence of illegitimate children, discrepancies in birth or marriage certificates, late-registered birth certificates, applications for asylum, CSS/LULAC, DUI's, or other criminal offenses.

Because of your fear or confusion, you may say things that you didn't mean to say, or you may wind up signing documents (or "confessions"), that you didn't read, simply because it was put in front of you.

With an attorney accompanying you, the attorney can make sure that the interview or hearing is conducted in a fair manner, and that you are not accidentally giving up any of your rights. The attorney can make sure that your rights are being protected.

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)

A foodie made 'Litsonero'

PAGE 8 ◀

cast that he wanted, with his modest budget. "Their talent fees for this entire movie is only half of what they get for one TV taping day," Reyes pointed out. "Which makes this movie a labor of love."

Overall, the film did require some sacrifices from the cast, led by Paolo Contis, Karylle, Michael de

Mesa, Maricel Laxa and Jun Urbano.

"It's rare to see a movie set where everyone is working for love," Reyes explained. "It's a gathering of friends engrossed in serious work. However, for outsiders, it probably wouldn't look so solemn because everyone in the cast is kalog (funny)."

Surviving in a hostile immigrant environment

Wherever we look upon this earth, the opportunities take shape within the problems.

—Nelson Rockefeller

Others without such a business tradition or built-in advantage go into business because they have no other choice. With little or no English language skills and even if they are well educated and hold extensive experience, they could not find employment in the general job market comparable to what they had before in the old country. Rather than take on jobs that for them might be demeaning, they have chosen to set themselves up in business.

Each ethnic group has shown expertise in handling businesses in certain identifiable niches. Among those who have exhibited entrepreneurial skills that have resulted in establishing specific businesses include:

- Koreans who are known for operating grocery stores, liquor stores, dry cleaning shops, restaurants, appliance stores and many other businesses;
- Asian Indians and Pakistanis who own convenience stores, food-service and delis, lodging facilities in the hotel and motel industry, and jewelry kiosks and stores;
- Cambodians who are particularly noted for operating retail bakeries and thousands of doughnut shops in many locations in metropolitan areas;
- Filipinos who buy up and convert homes and operate nursing facilities for seniors, the handicapped and the infirm; small restaurants and food markets;
- Thais who run restaurants that offer their distinctive culinary fare;
- Armenians and immigrants

from the Middle East who have the rug and carpet, jewelry business and automotive repair business cornered;

- Vietnamese who are more than likely to own beauty shops and nail salons (some regulations covering nail salons in some states are written in the Vietnamese language indicating that they have cornered this industry niche as experienced manicurists);

- Chinese who operate banks, oriental food markets, hotels, dry cleaners; import and export businesses, manufacturing and countless restaurants, among many others.

Some immigrants plunge headlong into business soon after arrival with the help of friends and relatives who are already in business. Others bide their time and test the waters tentatively at first. They start businesses after garnering the range of experiences in certain industries and saving enough money for start-up capital.

If you have what it takes to do as well or better than those who have done so in your own ethnic community, by all means, explore the entrepreneurial route. The rewards, after surviving the initial years of struggle, can be tremendous. Sometimes, all it takes is a dream.

Nota Bene: To ask questions, send feedback and requests as well as to inquire about advertising in any or all of the 6 print editions of Asian Journal in California, Nevada and New York/New Jersey and/or advertising in the Print Edition Online of Asian Journal, e-mail monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SENT FEEDBACK.

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

DESPITE the enforcement of harsh and restrictive laws that targeted certain ethnic groups, ethnic business niches began with small and tentative success experiences gained by a few trailblazing immigrants within certain communities. Barred from entering the mainstream work force, many had no choice but to go into tiny businesses catering to their own communities as a means to survive. The success formula of one or a few is quickly copied and transferred to others within the community, thus building a momentum where many go into the same business and succeed as well until a saturation level is reached and new industry niches need to be discovered and explored.

There are distinct differences among cultures and it must be noted that certain cultures are more predisposed to going into particular business than others. Risk-taking as a cultural trait seems to be more pronounced in some ethnic groups than in others. Those that have language difficulties and have a long historical and cultural background of setting up retail outlets from one generation to the other in their home countries are more predisposed to transferring their business skills into their new environment, learning as much as they can on their own and from observation.

Certain groups like Jews and Armenians have long histories of being involved in business in every area around the world where they settle. This tradition is passed down from one generation to the next because the family has had the experience, the know-how, the contacts, the business secrets, and the advantage of having start-up capital.