

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

**PETITIONS by Citizens**

The priority date for the First Preference Category, F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens, over 21 years of age) remained the same at September 1, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date remained the same at July 1, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 7 days from August 1, 1986 to August 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 7 days, from December 15, 2004, to December 22, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) remained the same at April 1, 1998.

**Petitions by Employers**

The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) remains unavailable. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers also remains 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 (or became "unavailable") before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the US), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

**The July 2009 priority dates**

The July 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)	September 1, 1993 <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	December 22, 2004 <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was December 15, 2004.)</i>
	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	April 1, 1998 <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Third Preference	Married sons and daughters of US Citizens.	July 1, 1991 <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Fourth Preference	Brothers and sisters of US Citizens.	August 8, 1986 <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was August 1, 1986.)</i>
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/ Skilled Workers	Unavailable <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Other workers	Non-Skilled Workers	Unavailable <i>(In June 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>

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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

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(Advertising Supplement)

**IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND**



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

If you want anything done, give it to a busy person. But perhaps, this is true only up to a point. One's carrying capacity can be maxed out. Anyone who is both efficient and effective has mastered many times by trial and error over some length of time that fine blend of mixing the art and science of planning his work and working his plan. How? By thinking things through, prioritizing, sequencing and when necessary, improvising to stay within timetables and resources and keeping a laser-like focus on the goal while keeping your balance. It's a tall order yet doable. Anyone, determined enough, can get things done.

Nowhere is this life skill more put to the test than here in America where a person's worth, whether you like it or not, is measured by his productivity, his creativity, and his results. It is a skill needed to navigate a person's day-to-day life. The major strides in technology have enhanced man's capability to multi-task. Picture the modern version of Everyman running on a treadmill juggling multiple roles. No matter how much you want to buck the system, there is no way you can get around the fact that in order to thrive, let alone survive at this time and in this place, the life skills one needs to acquire and develop some level of competence in, are in the areas of planning and working the plan. You know what a delight it is to work on a project that has been well conceived and well planned. And when a plan comes together in seamless fashion, everything is as smooth as silk. On the flip side of the coin, you know how aggravating it is to be involved in one that is a mess from the beginning conceived by one who seems to be running around like a headless chicken. History bears out that most of the great leaders of all time, whether in politics, in industry and in business are supreme planners. And contrary to common belief, these planners

**Getting Things Done: A Redux**

*“If it's going to be, it's up to me.”*  
—Robert H. Schuller

see the big picture but do not feel that it is beneath them to roll up their sleeves and work on the nitty-gritty themselves. God is in the details. So is the devil. Planning helps you to see the goal very clearly. Planning makes it possible to signal your intentions to others so adjustments can be made in the early stages of the project. In freeway driving, it is not only courteous to signal your intention when changing lanes to let other drivers either speed up or slow down to make room for your move, it is the safe and prudent thing to do. Planning, like your left and right turn signals on your car, is a communication tool that gets feedback from within the team.

Henry Ford, who had a hand in perfecting the assembly line production technique once said, "Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs." As you flesh out the details of a project, the number of sub-tasks and the sequence with which these smaller tasks need to be done becomes clearer. Assigning who does what further breaks down the job to smaller and manageable bite sizes. Of course as the overseer, your task is to monitor progress of each component of the project and see that each one contributes to the overall goal. Inspect what you expect. Never assume. Ultimately, the value of planning brings you full circle as it helps you stay focused on the goal and get the job done on time and within budget. Getting things done and looking back at a job well done is gratifying for it somehow validates your self-worth.

Here's a caveat. Lest we think that planning is foolproof, remember that "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Even with all the seemingly perfect planning that brainiac scientists at NASA do and even with the use of cutting edge technology, the agency still experiences monumental failures—sometimes. Things may not work out as planned. Consider the recent

tragedy of the Air France plane crash over the Atlantic where no one survived. All told, 228 lives were lost. That flight was the result of expert plans that worked over and over in the past. It will be some time before aviation experts figure out exactly what went wrong on what could have been a routine flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. They say a small Airbus part, called the Pitot tube responsible for reading the plane's speed iced up and malfunctioned giving wrong readings of air speeds, as it flew directly into the belly of a severe thunderstorm and was never heard from again as it broke apart and plunged to the Atlantic. Sometimes you wonder if given all the sophisticated modern technology at our disposal, we should still have the option of a manual override for human operators of machines thrust in dire emergency conditions. There are absolutely no guarantees that something will work out because of a great plan. Man proposes, God disposes. There will be curve balls thrown in our path. When things don't work out as planned, try to accept it. Perhaps, there is a much better plan from a higher frequency and perspective. This is when you go deep inside and plumb the depths of your being and ask for the inner strength to accept things humbly. For the most part however, it has been proven that unless mighty cosmic forces are conspiring against something from happening, chances are stacked heavily towards transforming an idea to reality because of the simple act of planning and tenaciously working the plan.

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ENCORE SHOWING OF CITIZEN PINOY'S THANKSGIVING SPECIAL FROM MANILA! Newscaster, Correspondent, TV Host Ms. Bernadette Sembrano (left) joins leading immigration attorney Michael J. Gurfinkel (right) in this special Thanksgiving episode of the most popular immigration program on television—Citizen Pinoy! Stay tuned for many surprises, and have your immigration questions answered! This encore episode airs on TFC 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!**



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. Esquerra Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Tapings will be at 10am; 1pm; and 4pm. 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](http://www.citizenpinoy.com) or call (011)(632)894-0239 or (011)(632)894-0258-9am to 3pm (Mondays-Fridays); 7am-11am (Saturdays)—(Philippine time). *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 12 am 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.

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 Chanel'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 Studio 1, ABS-CBN Broadcast Center, Mother

Ignacia corner Sgt. Esquerra 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](http://www.citizenpinoy.com) or, from the Philippines, call (011)(632)894-0239 or (011)(632)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

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