

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Surviving in a hostile immigrant environment

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

—Nelson Rockefeller

start-up capital.

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.

Parent's Right to Change Child's Residence to another state in custody case

PARENTS that are going through divorce and legal separation sometimes have to make a decision to move out of state for various reasons. It may be because their family network is in another state. This decision often have a significant impact on the visitation of the other parent because it would be more difficult for the non-custodial parent to exercise his or her visitation rights in a frequent and continuing manner if the custodial parent moves to a different state hundreds or thousands of miles away from the non custodial parent.

The parent that has Custody of the child has a presumptive right to change the child's residence unless the non custodial parent can show that the move would be a detriment to the child. In cases where there has not been any final custody order, the court has to make a custody determination using "the best interest" standard. Court will look at the factors and decide what is in the best interest of the child. Custody is usually given to the parent that is more likely to allow frequent and continuing contact between the child and the other parent. On the other hand if there has been a final Custody determination, then the non-custodial parent would have to show a "significant change in circumstances" to change the custody arrangement.

The Court would then consider certain factors laid out in the case Marriage of LaMusga in deciding whether the child would suffer detriment from the relocation and whether a change of custody should be ordered. The La Musga factors which the Court will consider are 1) the children's interest in stability and continuity in the custodial arrangement; 2) the distance of the move; 3) the children's age; 4) the children's relationship with both parents; 5) the relationship between the parents including, but not limited to, their ability to communicate and cooperate effectively and their willingness to put the children's interests

above their individual interests; 6) the children's wishes if they are mature enough to make that inquiry appropriate; 7) the reasons for the proposed move; and 8) the extent to which the parents currently are sharing custody.

Barrister's Corner



Atty. Kenneth Ursua Reyes

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(Advertising Supplement)

Bankruptcy: Emergency help for the financially sick



Minding your Finances

Atty. Raymond Bulaon

MOST debt problems don't go away. They are there when you go to bed at night and they're still there when you get up in the morning. They can cause a lot of ulcers, sleepless nights, stress and even physical sickness. As a bankruptcy attorney for the last 10 years now, I've seen the devastating effects of serious debt problems on people's personal lives, their businesses, their families and their marriages.

Facing serious debt problems causes severe anxiety and fear about the future. What will happen to me and my family if I get

sued by creditors and get my wages garnished? Will I have enough to buy food, pay my rent or mortgage and continue to support loved ones? You may experience feelings of guilt, anger, loneliness and depression.

The worst thing that you can do right now is to pretend that everything is OK until one day your situation becomes a financial emergency. I know, I know. You've probably heard a lot of bad things about bankruptcy. But have you actually looked into it to see if it's a good option for you? Have you looked at the potential advantages and disadvantages and whether this may be the solution that you need to turn your life around? After all, more than 1 million people in this country file for bankruptcy every year and they do just fine. Most of these people rebuild their credit in 2-3 years

and a lot of them qualify to buy a home even after bankruptcy. Is this what you're afraid of? Are you afraid that once you file for bankruptcy, you will never have credit again? This is a big lie that bill collectors often tell you in order to scare and intimidate you. They know that once you file for bankruptcy protection, they can no longer call and harass you.

Don't get me wrong. Bankruptcy is certainly not for everyone because it is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. But when done right, you may find yourself thinking why you hadn't done it sooner to end your debt suffering. Filing for bankruptcy protection automatically stops all creditor actions such as harassing phone calls, collections letters, lawsuits, wage garnish-

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U.S. Census Bureau News
Los Angeles Regional Census Center
9301 Corbin Avenue, Suite 1000
Northridge, California 91324

Managers Being Recruited for 2010 Census
Tagalog-Speaking Managers Sought for 19 counties

Northridge, CA

The Los Angeles Regional Census Center is actively recruiting managers for 27 Local Census Offices. 26 will be located in Southern California, and one in Honolulu, Hawaii. With the exception of the U.S. military, the nationwide recruiting effort for the decennial census is the largest peace time hiring of temporary federal employees.

In the fall of 2009, these 27 Local Census Offices will open to direct Field Operations for the region's population count on Census Day, April 1, 2010. These offices will be located in strategic areas of southern California and on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Managers' salaries range from \$19.25 to \$29.00 per hour depending on location and position.

The current focus and priority is on recruiting and testing to fill six key management positions for each Local Census Office before the openings in the Fall, 2009. The positions are: Local Census Office Manager, Assistant Manager for Field Operations, Assistant Manager for Administration, Assistant Manager for Recruiting, Assistant Manager for Quality Assurance, and Assistant Manager for Technology.

Testing will be ongoing in Local Census Office cities and their surrounding areas. To reserve a seat for testing, please call (866) 861-2010, enter zero: "0" and your zip code.

New offices will open in the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Fresno, Santa Barbara, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

For more information on Census 2010 jobs in the Los Angeles Region, please visit

www.census.gov/losangeles.

Click on the link for "Regional Employment."

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