

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

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

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 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/LU-LAC, 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 accompany-

ing 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.

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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 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. Esquerria 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.

Kennedy Global School of Business, Inc. is your best choice for quality education

JOB recruitment has grown to be more and more competitive over the years, and much emphasis has been put on the education by job applicants. With this in mind, it is only fitting that students allot more time and effort in choosing which school would be the best for them to achieve future success in their chosen careers. Since Kennedy Global School of Business opened its doors, the decision in choosing the right school has been a lot easier.

The Kennedy Global School prides itself mainly on offering programs that give students practical knowledge and skills which they can apply directly into a workplace environment. The Kennedy Global School of Business believes in technical education that provides students with necessary skills and competencies which make them to be productive, employable and competitive.

The Kennedy Global School is also a practical choice for students as they can save

anywhere from 40 to 65 percent on tuition fee, plus more savings on miscellaneous fees as compared to almost all schools, colleges and universities taking the same program. To non-residents of the Philippines, the tuition fee is four times lower than what most US schools charge. Another strength of Kennedy Global School is its diversity. The quality of teaching and student learning is enriched by qualified educators who hold advanced degrees in their respective fields and the majority of our instructors/educators have passed the US Nursing Board—the NCLEX RN/PN. They have developed a customized curriculum: mentoring, interactive and modular education.

Kennedy Global School, founded by American-Filipino businesswoman Ms. Cecille Kennedy, is currently the leading and fastest growing nursing school in the Philippines and currently offers two programs: Practical and Vocational Nursing Programs

and the NCLEX - PN/RN review courses.

Kennedy Global School started as a review center offering review programs for the US National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) for registered nurses. The Kennedy Review Center will help in getting your nursing registration and license and provide you a direct referral to job placement, as well as give you access to job opportunities. You will also be given the option to select your job location and you will have a minimal waiting period for papers processing. Most importantly, with the Kennedy Review Center, you will be protected from illegal recruitment.

KGS also offers a new course on Home Management Technology, which is designed to those who intend to go abroad as certified domestic helps and for those who prefer to stay in the country under an upgraded domestic help status. Kennedy Global School intends

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June 6, 2009

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