

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

DEAR Atty. Gurfinkel:

I just received a jury summons from the County Courthouse, but I am in illegal status (TNT). How did they get my name and address? Do I have to serve on a jury? Will Immigration be able to track me down? Will I be reported to Immigration? How can I get out of serving on a jury? Should I just ignore or throw away the jury summons?

I am really worried about this, and have not been able to sleep since I received the jury summons in the mail.

*Very truly yours,
A.S.*

Dear A.S.,

County Courthouses (or the County Office of Jury Commissioner) typically select potential jurors from voter registration lists or DMV records. Since you have not registered to vote (and cannot vote since you are not a US Citizen), it is likely that your name was selected from DMV records. Therefore, as long as a person has driver's license, his name will be listed on DMV records and his name could come up for jury selection.

In order to be eligible to serve as a juror, a person must be at least 18 years of age or older, and a US citizen. Non-citizens (including green card holders, non-immigrants, and TNTs) would therefore not be eligible to

Jury duty for illegal aliens?

serve as a juror.

Typically, the jury summons has a number of questions about a person's eligibility to serve as a juror. One of the questions is, "Are you a US citizen?" Obviously, you would have to answer that question as "No." Once the Jury Commissioner's office sees that response, they typically would not pursue the matter further.

Some of the questionnaires also ask that if the person is not a US citizen, that the person provide his "alien number." If the person is a non-immigrant or is in illegal status, that person may not have an alien number. So, you should probably write "not applicable" or "none".

I have seen some situations where the Jury Commissioner's Office wants even more "proof" that a person truly is not a citizen (i.e. they want to make sure that a citizen is not trying to get out of jury duty, by claiming that he is not a citizen). So even if the "No" box is checked (that the person is not a citizen), the clerk still wants more proof. In that situation, you may want to include the picture-page of your Philippine passport, which would indicate that you are still a Philippine citizen.

Furthermore, the Office of Jury Commissioner does not report anyone to the Department of Homeland Security. The Office of Jury Commissioner is a coun-

ty office, not a "federal" agency, and all they're interested in is getting enough US citizens to sit on juries. They are not in the business of enforcing immigration laws.

Under no circumstance should you ignore a jury summons, because if you do so, you could face possible fines and penalties through the county court system.

But, the bottom line is if you are in illegal status, you should really think about doing something so that you could get in legal status, get a green card, eventually become a US citizen, and then you could possibly serve on a jury.

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

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(Advertising Supplement)



MARRIAGE DOOMS SINGLE'S PETITION ON CITIZEN PINOY! Lala Serdenia (second from left) was petitioned as "single." Years later, when she finally had her interview at the US Embassy in Manila, it was discovered she had a marriage certificate. She was promptly denied her visa! Find out how she eventually reunited with her family in the USA on *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 8 am 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. Esquerro Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Taping 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 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.

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(Much of the economic woes we struggle with these days can be attributed to the impulse for instant gratification which American society, through its powerful influence-peddling media and with the help of the internet, engenders without apology. Need or want something? You can have it immediately, with little or no consequence. So the story line goes. By now, we know that's a brazen lie.

Experience has taught us that anything worthwhile takes perseverance, tough-minded discipline and the requisite time to see things through to fruition. Sadly, as many of us have found out while dealing with the heartbreak of foreclosures in a brutal recession, shortcuts often lead to short circuits.)

The practice of deferred gratification is a painful one. And who wants pain? It means letting go of the perceived whimsical, multiple yet tiny pleasures of the moment over a length of time in order to be in a financial position to afford the more significant purchases in one's life. It involves avoiding spending money on trivialities in order to save and accumulate substantial sums for the really important things in life—like being able to afford to have more time to do the things one likes to do: study, travel, paint, dance, write and a host of other things that one would have liked to do if there was time enough or the money to buy time. In the mundane world, it means quite simply, to be able to afford to buy what he believes to be important to his life, whatever these may be.

Deferring gratification involves

Deferring Gratification

... So many of us define ourselves by what we have, what we wear, what kind of house we live in and what kind of car we drive ... If you think of yourself as the woman in the Cartier watch and the Hermes scarf, a house fire will destroy not only your possessions but yourself.

— Linda Henley

patience and sacrifice and having to make do without the things that one wants right at that moment. Our natural tendency is to get the things that we want right at this moment to satisfy a whim or placate that impatient part of ourselves—even if we have to go into debt to do it.

Most trailblazing, first generation immigrants who have had to start from scratch and have had to make do during the early part of their immigrant lives, do not have a problem with sacrifice. It is part of who they are and what has made them strong and resilient in the face of adversity. The supreme irony is that patience as a virtue is not something that is automatically, genetically passed down to young people. We all have a natural aversion for pain and sacrifice yet this feeling is strongest among the young ones in an affluent society.

Teaching a person to save and not spend all the money that he has in one fell swoop in consumable, useless, mere image-building, ego-satisfying items is done best at a very young age. Parents who succeed in teaching their children to save even small amounts of money will have laid one of the basic foundations of building character in a young person.

The way to save money has always been to pay one's self first and accumulate small amounts prodigiously over a length of

time. In the world of ordinary, earned money, it is not what you make that counts, it is what you get to keep.

Out of any amount earned, won or received, and before buying anything, a minimum of 10 percent is taken out and is socked away in a savings account that should earn interest. In some cultures, parents teach their children to put away 20% or more of whatever money their children receive. This account is maintained and added to on a regular basis and kept until it reaches a critical mass and can then be placed in fail safe financial instruments for longer terms that can earn compound interest. This practice teaches patience and a healthy respect for saving money over time and keeps a run-away consumer frame of mind in check.

Young people will be tempted to spend it all on one big purchase that they feel is something that they need. It is their money after all and they should be able to do so. Their decision to spend it all after they have taken the time and the effort to save it can provide them one valuable learning experience about how to make judgment calls when it comes to money. The idea is to start them thinking and developing the discipline of paying one's self first with any amount of money they earn or receive as a gift. They will begin to regard small bits

of money as tiny droplets that in time can form a pond or a lake that is ready to be tapped when a really important need arises.

One benefit of saved money is that when a rare opportunity arises for those in a position to take advantage of it, like a trained soldier in full battle gear, he can be at a vantage point to make a decision, act on it and score a hit. Picture making a strong, hard-to-resist offer on a house you really see yourself living in for the rest of your life and getting it on your terms. Saved money can act as a buffer against the unforeseen, such as losing one's job to help tide you over the rough spots until you find another. It can even serve as a welcome salve for an emotional downturn. Transitions are always tough. Money makes it easier to navigate. That Carnival cruise to the Caribbean can help soothe a broken heart.

A caveat is in order though: BALANCE IS THE KEY. It is quite possible to go to the deep end and become a soulless, dried-up old prune like Scrooge. There's just no sense being moneyed yet miserable.

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.

'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 Studio 1, 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 (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 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, Stary Stary 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 Studio 1 in Quezon City.

Citizen Pinoy—airs every Sunday, at 5:40 pm (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. ■

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David Mercado Valderrama

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Joint Committee on Protocol, 1995-2003
Deputy Majority Leader, 2001-03

Member, Law Enforcement and State-Appointed Boards Committee, Prince George's County Delegation (chair, 1995-98)

Judge, Orphans' Court, Prince George's County, 1985-90
Member, Task Force to Study Health Professional-Client Sexual Exploitation, 1993-96 Task Force to Study Anti-Asian Violence, 1995-98

Board of Directors, Economic Development Corporation, Prince George's County, 2006

Vice-Chair, Democratic State Central Committee, Prince George's County, 1982-85.
Former chair, Southeast Asian Refugee Task Force

Director, Prince George's County Chapter of Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Director, Greater Southeast Community Hospital of Washington, DC

Recipient of Most Outstanding Filipino Award and Honored American Award.

David Valderrama is married to Nellie, with whom he has two daughters, Kriselda and Vida. ■

The 'privileges' and consequences...

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voluntarily departs still faces a ten-year bar from returning to the United States. Although the immigrant would not need to waive any bar resulting from a removal order, he will need to file a waiver for the unlawful presence bar.

Because the consequences of failing to depart are so severe, and the benefits of returning are so limited, the privilege of voluntary departure is not for everyone. Instead of gambling with your life and choosing voluntary departure as a quick and risky solution, you should first consult an attorney experienced in immigration matters to care-

fully evaluate your case and see if voluntary departure would be best for your individual case.

Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.

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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case. (Advertising Supplement)