

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Where hopes and dreams begin

The typhoons that recently hit the Philippines—the worst in 40 years—have left close to half a million people displaced and missing. Severe flooding has claimed the lives of more than 250 people as of the latest count. The number of casualties and fatalities continue to rise. This calamity, in terms of human suffering and long-term devastation, evokes the human tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina a few years ago in Louisiana.

Filipinos are a resilient people and they will find a way to survive. But they need immediate help in order to feed their families and sustain themselves through the coming days and weeks. More storms are expected.

Feed the Hungry, a US-based Filipino American organization, is right now working directly with the Commission on Overseas Filipinos, setting up food stations and relief centers all over the affected areas in Metro Manila. We have hundreds of volunteers reaching out to the flood victims, delivering food

and clothing and directing them to safe havens and shelters.

At this time, the most effective humanitarian response is to donate money. This will enable Feed The Hungry to purchase much-needed food and relief goods and deliver them immediately to the hard-hit areas.

Given the destruction that wreaked havoc on the lives of an already-impooverished people, we expect long-term rehabilitation and recovery efforts to follow. The rebuilding that needs to be done requires our compassion and commitment in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your prayers, financial support and helping hand during this time of calamity and crisis.

Please make checks payable to Feed the Hungry, Inc. and mail to:
Feed the Hungry, Inc.
19110 Dalton Points Place

On becoming your...

PAGE B7 ◀

the advantage of having 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

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials—regardless of political affiliation—in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

Julio DeGuzman

Appointed Director of Community and Government Relations in San Diego City Attorney's Office

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress



SAN Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith recently appointed Fil-Am Julio DeGuzman as Director of Community and Government Relations.

"Julio brings excellent skills and experience as Community & Government Relations Director. He is one of San Diego's finest investigators. When we get a call and send Julio out to investigate, we know we will get the facts," said City Attorney Goldsmith.

As director, DeGuzman will be responsible for covering special projects and participate in community collaborations and planning groups.

DeGuzman comes to the management staff of the City Attorney's Office with vast experience and high credentials, according to the SD District Attorney's office.

Prior to his appointment, he had been a City Attorney investigator since his retirement from the

federal government in 2006.

DeGuzman is a retired Special Agent with the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the US Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations.

Born in Malasiqui, Pangasinan, DeGuzman immigrated to the US at the age of three when his father was stationed in San Diego with the US Navy, according to the Filipino Press.

DeGuzman attended San Diego State University and began his career in law enforcement as a Deputy Probation Officer during that time. He then served as a Special Agent for the US Naval Investigative Service. He was the second Filipino-American hired by NIS worldwide, according to the Filipino Press.

Aside from professional responsibilities, DeGuzman is the President of the San Diego Lions Club. ■

Is bankruptcy the...

PAGE B7 ◀

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Atty. Joel R. Bander is the partner of Bander Law Firm, LLP. With over 15 years of litigation and immigration experience, Mr. Bander is a leading litigator and accomplished trial strategist. He has successfully handled numerous cases before Federal, State, Civil, and Criminal Judges and has participated in hundreds of arbitrations and trials.

Bander Law Firm, LLP Downtown office address: 1055 W. 7th Street, Suite 1950, Los Angeles, CA, 90017. Tel: (213) 873-4333 Fax: (213) 873-4334. San Gabriel Office address: 1045 E. Valley Blvd., #A215, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Email: info@banderlaw.com.

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