

IMMIGRATION CORNER



ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL

Did your attorney or consultant 'disappear'?

“In some situations, person claiming to be an attorney may not actually be a real attorney, but instead an imposter, cheating you of your hard earned money. If that person has “disappeared,” it could be that, when filing your immigration papers with USCIS, that person gave his address for notices from USCIS to be sent.”

you take active steps to insure that your situation will not be jeopardized or compromised. In some situations, person claiming to be an attorney may not actually be a real attorney, but instead an imposter, cheating you of your hard earned money. If that person has “disappeared,” it could be that, when filing your immigration papers with USCIS, that person gave his address for notices from USCIS to be sent. It could be possible that such notices were sent to that address. However, because that person had moved, they may have never received the notice, and, more importantly, never notified you that any such notice was sent by the USCIS.

There have been many situations where requests for evidence, denials, or even notices to appear (NTA) were sent to the address given by that person. You may have even possibly been placed in removal proceedings and ordered removed in your absence, without you ever knowing it. Then, if years later, you find a legitimate way to legalize your status (for example through a

true-love marriage to a US citizen), that old removal order on your record could jeopardize your situation.

That is why it is important that if your “legal representative” can no longer be found, that you seek the advice of a reputable attorney, who can evaluate your situation, and make sure that you are NOT in legal “danger.”

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
Call Toll free to schedule a consultation for anywhere in the US: (866)-GURFINKEL
Four offices to serve you: LOS ANGELES · SAN FRANCISCO · NEW YORK · PHILIPPINES

(Advertising Supplement)

DEAR Attorney Gurfinkel:
A few years ago, my wife and I went to an “attorney” for help in processing our immigration papers. Although the attorney said that he could help us, we’re not quite sure how this was to be accomplished. Although we signed some forms, I’m also not quite sure what it was we were signing.

Recently, I tried to contact that person, but the number was disconnected. We tried going to his office, but he is no longer located there. When I asked around, I was told he had gone out of business and back to the Philippines, after his office was raided by DHS and his files were seized, etc. Bottom line is that I can no longer locate him. What would you advise?

Very truly yours,
E.B.

Dear E.B.:
While the vast majority of attorneys are reputable, stable, and can be found or located, there are rare situations where an attorney (or especially a consultant), suddenly “disappears,” by closing their office, and/or cannot be found or reached. In those situations (where you cannot find your attorney or consultant), I think it is very important that

Star Magic celebrities illuminate this Sunday’s ‘Citizen Pinoy’



Star Magic Celebrities Light Up this Sunday’s ‘Citizen Pinoy’ Joining ‘Attorney to the Stars,’ Michal J. Gurfinkel, on this week’s ‘Citizen Pinoy’ are Star Magic celebrities (L - R) Yeng Constantino, Laarni Lozada, Chokoleit, Victor Basa and Richard Poon. Get answers to your immigration questions, while watching your favorite stars on ‘Citizen Pinoy’, which airs every Sunday at 5:40pm (PST), with replays on Wednesdays at 12:15am (PST) on TFC. ‘Citizen Pinoy’ also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 1am, with replays on Sundays at 9am and Thursdays at 8pm, all PST; and on ANC in the Philippines every Sunday at 4pm, with replays at 12 midnight on Mondays.

REDWOOD CITY, CA—For two nights in June 2009, the night skies in Ontario and in San Francisco, California glittered with the shimmer and the brilliance of more than 40 gifted Filipino celebrities of ‘Star Magic’—ABS-CBN’s talent and artist management arm. *The Star Magic World Tour* was promoted as the most colorful and biggest gathering of stars—including Piolo Pascual, Sam Milby, Diether Ocampo, Kristine Hermosa, Bea Alonzo, John Lloyd Cruz, Jake Cuenca, Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson, and many more headliners. Fans came in droves to both cities and witnessed their idols make those nights truly memorable.

Little did anyone know that a lot of work had to be done to make *The Star Magic World Tour* possible. The fans were not aware that the show had a major problem. The visa applications for the performers were actually denied about three weeks prior to the concert dates. Obviously, no visas, no stars, no concert show! The producers then approached Atty. Michael J. Gurfinkel to help bail them out of this major fiasco that would have disappointed thousands of fans.

One can simply do the math and imagine the presented challenge. A single entertainer visa application (O visa) would normally take two months to be approved. With over 40 visa applications to work on in less than 3 weeks, many documents need to be gathered from artists with hectic schedules (resumes, experience evaluation, awards, endorsements, producer contracts, etc.). However, the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkel burned the midnight oil, toiling over huge amounts of paperwork and documentation. And a few days before the artists were scheduled to fly to the US, the cases were approved and the visas were issued! Wow! What a relief. And this brought so much joy to both fans and celebrities alike. In fact, for some stars, it was their first time in the US.

And this Sunday, Star Magic artists—Yeng Constantino, Laarni Lozada, Chokoleit, Victor Basa and Richard Poon—sit down with “attorney-of-last-hope” Michael J. Gurfinkel, to talk about all the anxiety and ultimate joy they went through over their visas. Watch the most popular immigration show on television—*Citizen Pinoy*—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 1am with replays on Sundays at 9am and Thursdays at 8pm, all PST; and on ANC in the Philippines every Sunday at 4pm, with replays at 12 midnight on Mondays.

Citizen Pinoy is made possible with the support of friends 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. *Citizen Pinoy* is also supported by ABS-CBN Global’s key product offerings: Star Kargo, Starry Starry Store, ABS-CBN Telecom and TFCDirect. ■

The biggest Warehouse Sale is coming to New York on Sept. 18 & 19!

HOW can you keep up with latest fashion trends during these hard times?
Here is a tip from an industry insider. So listen up. The sale of the year isn’t at the mall. It’s a fashion event called The Warehouse Sale. This is the largest traveling fashion sale event crisscrossing the nation and bringing fashion excitement wherever they go, and it’s on its way to New York. So bring the whole family and save a bundle. Premium denim, tops, dresses, hoodies, skirts, shoes for men and women at up to 80% discount should give anyone reason to make time for this event and be there.
Snooze and you lose. For TWO days only, September 18 & 19, Friday and Saturday 11AM to 8PM. The Warehouse Sale will be at The Gallery, 4th Level, 123 W. 18th St. New York, NY 10011. Event promoters are bringing over 20,000 items from LA’s latest and hottest designer brands for men & women

at deeply discounted prices.
Picture yourself wearing these brand name items for so much less and feeling really good about it: True Religion, Seven, Ed Hardy, BCBG, William Rast, Rock and Republic, Christian Audigier, Monarchy, Laguna Beach, Lucky Brand, Frankie B, and many more premium brands. Log on and RSVP to www.TheWarehouseSale.com, and register to get your free admission. Or bring the *Asian Journal* ad to get in FOR FREE or pay \$5 at the door.
Don’t forget the \$25.00 coupon in the *Asian Journal* ad. Clip it or bring the ad with you. Restrictions apply. The coupon is valid for one transaction of \$200.00 or more and cannot be combined with any other offers. Coupon expires 09/30/09.
Be there on September 18 and 19 at the Gallery. The Warehouse Sale, you can’t miss this one!

(Advertising Supplement)



Nation’s largest designer fashion sale event is coming to the The Gallery in New York.

Patricia Llena: Beauty, brains and brawn

by APRIL TIAMZON, *AJPress*

LOS ANGELES—When you look at this seemingly shy and quiet Filipina, you would not expect her to be the 2009 World Sub-Junior and Junior Powerlifting Champion.
Six days after sweeping the World Powerlifting Championships in Riberirao Preto in Sao Paolo, Brazil, 15-year-old Patricia Llena graced the Philippine Consulate on September 14.
Patricia was accompanied by her father and trainer, Leonardo Llena and Dominic Cabalza, Asian Powerlifting Federation’s Vice President for Southeast Asia.
The sub-junior category yields lifters ages 14 to 18 from at least 30 countries worldwide. This is Llena’s first time to compete in an international level. She has never lifted in any regional powerlifting meets ever since she started in 2008.
Leonard Llena was thankful that his daughter’s hardwork, rigorous training and challenging trip across the world paid off when she beat three-time world champion Talybova Yana of Russia.

Continued on Page 6





present

Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy: Filipino American Profiles of Success

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2009
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Location:
Marriott Los Angeles Downtown
Address:
333 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

SPEAKERS:



Dado Banatao is the managing partner of Tallwood Venture Capital, a firm focusing on semiconductors and semiconductor related technologies. He is credited with developing several key semiconductor technologies and is regarded as a Silicon Valley visionary.



Winston Damarillo, CEO and Founder of Simula Labs (www.simulalabs.com), a Marina Del Rey-based firm that is developing companies based on open source software. Winston is the founder of Gluecode, which was purchased by IBM last year, and a former venture capitalist at Intel Capital.



Sheila Marcelo is a seasoned entrepreneur whose passion for business and family led to the founding of Care.com. She also served as an executive at several successful consumer internet companies including: Upromise and TheLadders.com.

MODERATOR:



Eric Manlunas is the Founder and Managing Director of Frontera Group, LLC, a boutique venture capital firm focused on investing in early-stage emerging companies. He is a two-time start-up veteran turned venture capitalist with a strong passion for early-stage investing.

Regular admission: \$30.00 (pre registration) \$40.00 (at the door)
Student discount: \$10.00 (pre registration) \$15.00 (at the door)
Light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres served.

Refreshments sponsored by 

This event is sponsored by







For more information, contact Ayala Foundation USA
Tel: (650) 598-3126 Fax: (650) 508-8988 Email: info@af-usa.org
For the benefit of AYALA FOUNDATION-USA
www.af-usa.org