

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



**ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL**

**The January 2009 priority dates**

The January priority dates for the Philippines are as follows:

FAMILY CATEGORY:		Priority Date
<b>First Preference</b>	Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)	<b>July 15, 1993</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was June 1, 1993.)</i>
<b>Second Preference</b>	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	<b>May 15, 2004</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was April 1, 2004)</i>
	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	<b>September 1, 1997</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was May 15, 1997.)</i>
<b>Third Preference</b>	Married sons and daughters of US citizens.	<b>May 22, 1991</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was May 15, 1991.)</i>
<b>Fourth Preference</b>	Brothers and sisters of US citizens.	<b>May 1, 1986</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was April 15, 1986.)</i>
<b>LABOR CERTIFICATION:</b>		
<b>Third Preference</b>	Professional/skilled workers	<b>May 1, 2005</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was the same.)</i>
<b>Other workers</b>	Non-skilled workers	<b>March 15, 2003</b> <i>(In December 2008, the priority date was January 15, 2008.)</i>

**P**ETITIONS by Citizens:  
The priority date for the First Preference Category, F-1 (unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, over 21 years of age) priority date moved forward by 1 month and 14 days from June 1, 1993 to July 15, 1993.

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 7 days from May 15, 1991 to May 22, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 16 days from April 15, 1986 to May 1, 1986.

**Petitions by Green Card Holders:**

The Second Preference, F-2A (Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder) moved forward by 1 month and 14 days, from April 1, 2004 to May 15, 2004

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by 1 month and 17 days from July 15, 1997 to September 1, 1997.

**Petitions by Employers:**

The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) priority date remained the same at May 1, 2005. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers moved forward 2 months from January 15, 2003 to March 15, 2003.

Each month, the Visa Office of

the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that visas (or green cards) would now be available for persons whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below. If your priority date was "current", but retrogressed before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the U.S.), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

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.

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be done.  
There is guarded optimism in the air as we enter 2009. The millions of families, workers, students, and parents who have been waiting for years for the government to legalize their status are again hopeful. It's not too early to again prepare for what can be the next immigration amnesty. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Lazaro and Associates is a Filipino-owned

law firm that handles civil litigation. The firm's offices are located in San Francisco, Fremont/Newark/Union City California, Makati City (Philippines). Telephone (415)278-9577. E-mail: Law@LazaroLaw.com. Website: www.LazaroLaw.com.

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**DR. VAL'S DENTAL VIEWS**



**DR. VALERIE DE LEON**

**W**HILE some study results indicate the use of a mouth rinse can be as effective as flossing for reducing plaque between the teeth, the American Dental Association (A D A ) believes the best way to remove plaque is by brushing twice a day and cleaning between teeth with floss on inter-dental cleaners once each day. Plaque is responsible for both tooth decay and periodontal (gum) disease.

Regarding the studies, the researchers concluded that in patients with mild to moderate gingivitis (early periodontal or gum disease), rinsing twice a day with the antiseptic mouth rinse was as effective as flossing for reducing plaque and gingivitis between the

**Flossing or just rinsing**

teeth. The studies did not examine whether the mouth rinse had the same effect as floss on reducing tooth decay or periodontitis (advanced periodontal/gum disease). Flossing and inter-dental cleaners also help remove food debris caught between teeth that may not be rinsed away.

The ADA recommends the following for good oral hygiene:  
Brush your teeth twice a day

professional cleanings and oral exams.

Talk to your dentist about types of oral care products that are most effective for you. The ADA seal on a product is your assurance that it has met ADA criteria for safety and effectiveness.

Replace your toothbrush every three or four months, or soon if the bristles become worn, it will not do good job of cleaning your teeth.

*"The best way to remove plaque is by brushing twice a day and cleaning between teeth with floss on inter-dental cleaners once each day."*

with an ADA-accepted fluoride toothpaste.

Clean between teeth daily with floss or an inter-dental cleaner. Decay causing bacteria still linger between teeth where toothbrush bristles can't reach. Flossing removes plaque and food particles from between the teeth and under the gum line.

Eat a balanced diet and limit between-meal snacks.

Visit your dentist regularly for

Children's toothbrushes often need replacing more frequently than adults because they wear out sooner.

If you have questions, pls call Dr. Valerie de Leon at (650) 697-9000 or visit our website at www.millbraesmiles.com. She is with Millbrae Smile Center located at 15 El Camino Real, Millbrae 94030. She is a member of American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Academy of Laser Dentistry, ADA, CDA and SMCDs. Please call for a free consultation.

(Advertising Supplement)

**Amnesty...**

From PAGE B2  
policy favoring the reunification of families and failed to protect workers' most basic rights. This year the issues may be similar: Should US immigration policy become a labor supply system for corporations, or should it support families and communities? But the bottom line is something must



**CHARICE ON CITIZEN PINOY'S HOLIDAY SPECIAL!** The international singing sensation CHARICE (2nd from right) is joined by her brother Carl (left) and mother Raquel (right) for an exclusive and touching interview by Atty. Michael Gurfinkel (2nd from left) at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills. The most popular immigration program on television—Citizen Pinoy—airs this Sunday, at 5:40 pm (PST) with a replay on Tuesday, at 11:20 pm (PST) on TFC. Citizen Pinoy also airs on ANC-US every Sunday at 12 midnight with replays on Sunday at 8am and Thursday at 7pm, all PST; and on ANC- Philippines every Sunday at 4pm with a replay at 12 midnight on Monday (Manila time).

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