

COMMUNITY

JOURNAL

YOUR IMMIGRATION SOLUTION



ATTY. ROBERT REEVES & KATHERINE L. CURTIS

Resolving immigration problems in the New Year

who had criminal or immigration problems in the past might be eligible for certain forms of relief. These individuals may unnecessarily be living in fear that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will take away their green cards and deport them or that they will never be able to obtain a green card because of their problems. However, not every conviction or problem with US

(by saying they were unmarried when they are married). These waivers allow those individuals to correct problems in their immigration status so that they can naturalize and eventually obtain immigrant visas for their family. In addition, those who entered the US as visitors under a false name or with false documentation may be eligible for waivers in order to obtain lawful permanent residence through a spouse or parent.

As 2009 begins, most of us wonder just what will the new year bring and how will our lives change. For many aliens in the US, one single question is on the mind more than any other: what will be my immigration status in 2009?

There is reason to be hopeful that a new President will bring about immigration reform. This is especially true because President-Elect Barack Obama has set up a blueprint for change that includes

“bringing people out of the shadows.” However, positive immigration legislation may not happen immediately, and it is important for those with immigration problems to seek to improve their immigration status under current laws.

Many events may improve an individual’s immigration status if they are here without documentation: marriage to a permanent resident or US citizen or US citizen children turning twenty-one. These events may render someone eligible to obtain residence in the US where they were not eligible before.

Aliens present in the US

“ Aliens may be able to overcome past misrepresentations they made when entering the United States as lawful permanent residents or as visitors and bring their family together despite these misrepresentations. ”

authorities will result in deportation or preclude people from obtaining a green card. An individual may be able to prevail in deportation court, obtain lawful permanent residence, or obtain waivers despite their problems.

Aliens may be able to overcome past misrepresentations they made when entering the United States as lawful permanent residents or as visitors and bring their family together despite these misrepresentations. There are waivers available for individuals who misrepresented their marital status when they became lawful permanent residents

There are many possibilities under current laws for resolving immigration problems in the United States and to assure family reunification. Exploring one’s immigration status with an experienced immigration attorney should be among the resolutions for 2009. We at Reeves & Associates wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year.

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 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.

Perla G. Ibarrientos

A mover in the Fil-Am community

BEING the first Filipino-American Commissioner in Daly City and the first Fil-Am to chair the 19th Assembly District Committee, Perla G. Ibarrientos still remains true to her vision – that is, to serve the community, especially the youth.

Ms. Ibarrientos’ civic engagement began in 1973 as a teacher’s aide in the classroom of her children and her involvement in education continued as she served on the PTA Board and was a member of the Parents Advisory Board at Westmoor High. Later on, she became one of the key figures in bringing qualified Filipino teachers into the local school district.

But one of her most admired qualities is how much she cares for people and how committed she is in improving the lives of the people in her community. In 1991, when gang activities were prevalent in Daly City, an African-American was shot to death by a Filipino youngster. To ease the tension between the two communities, Ibarrientos was one of the people who organized the meeting.

A pharmacist by profession, Ibarrientos is also currently the president of the Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center (PBRC). There, she assists the immigration pro bono lawyers.

At present Ibarrientos is also the vice president of the North Peninsula Food Pantry Dining



Center in Daly City, where she is very hands-on in its operation by stocking food and preparing individual brown bags for distribution to needy and the Director of the American Baptist Homes of the West since 2006.

She has also been the president of the Daly City/Quezon City Sister City Committee (2005-2006), vice president of the Board for the San Mateo County Organizing Project (1994-1995), Chairwoman of the 19th Assembly District Committee (1997-2001), was elected delegate by the 12th Congressional District at the National Democratic Convention for Al Gore in 2000 and was president of the Fil-Am Democratic Club from 1989-1991.

Ibarrientos was also bestowed by Daly City Mayor Carol Klatt in 1999 as Citizen of the Year, awarded by the Fil-Am Coalition as Outstanding Filipino American Women Award in March 2007 and was recognized for Outstanding Leadership by the Fil-Am Democratic Club of San Mateo County.

With all her achievements and her continued service to the Fil-Am community, Ibarrientos has also tackled her personal life successfully, having been happily married for 44 years and a mother to three successful children and a grandmother to five.



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