

TIMPUYOG JOURNAL



Php 25.00

Nawaya a Prensa Saan a Mangidaddaduma
(Para iti Isasantak ti Literatura Iluko)

May 15, 2012



Maika-40
a bilang

Atty. Imelda Argel

ATTY. IMELDA ARGEL

A ROLE MODEL WHO INSPIRES HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

By LADY FELE MANN

THE Book of Wisdom says, "A person is like a tree, it can either produce much fruits or without fruits, can either squander the only life given to him or her by the divine creator or bring much fruits for the glory of God."

Or he or she can be a "sparkler" or just a "good for no-thing" individual who allowed his intentions to fall by the wayside and produce nothing as a result.

Atty Imelda Argel, originally from the Ilocos, is an embodiment of all the positive aspects of life mentioned in the above: she produced much fruits for the glory of God, a winsome sparkler who has become a role model who inspires honesty, integrity and performance.

The Vigan, Ilocos Sur native is the principal of Imelda Argel and Associates, Solicitors and Attorneys based in Sydney, NSW, Australia. She saw the rare opportunity to serve through her contact with others in her profession as a lawyer and migration agent and the special God-given so that she can reach the people God intends her to influence for the good. Atty Argel recognized both her gifts and the oppor-

the top priority, no matter how it is acquired, to have the likes of Atty. Argel who still deliberately does what is right and

processing. She doesn't leave us in the dark with questions crowding in our minds like "Are we going to make it? When? How long more to wait? How much more money to spend? Will it be approved or disapproved? Haven't we waited too long already after paying big amount of money?"

Actually, Annie burst into uncontrollable tears of joy while reminiscing the hardships and uncertainties she endured while waiting for their papers (under another migration service) to be approved. To the Elicanal family, Atty Argel was Heaven-sent. She devotedly fought for the success of their application for permanency despite the ... odds. Now that they are permanent residents, they can now breathe freely and with ease, thanks to Atty. Argel, whose services they obtained when they learned of her incredible ability to work efficiently and get

things approved at a reasonable time frame.

I had the chance to meet the other clients under another migration service, who seems to be waiting in vain for the approval of their permanency. Frustration is written all over their faces. Luckily, those who succeeded in their permanency status,



(Filipina Attorney Imelda Argel from Sydney with Lady Fele Mann)

eases the burden of clients, especially those who have less in life. She has a soft spot in her heart to clients who are hardworking, trustworthy, dedicated to their jobs and families, and determined to improve their life status and with a solid faith in God. It is hard for her to refuse to serve them as migration lawyer.

Atty. Argel has successfully helped many clients, including Filipinos, who have become permanent residents in Australia. She is determined to fight for their chance and right to stay permanently in this country, even when they have insufficient money to pay for her services. She makes it affordable by installment basis which they can afford to pay. Unlike others who charge fees, sometimes a bit much for the clients and leave them groping in the dark as to what stage their application papers are in the process. Following up their application personally is some kind of a horror for them due to high consultation fees. In some cases, some clients have lost their faith in humanity due to worries and frustrations.

"How did you find the services of Atty Imelda Argel as your migration agent?" I asked Rudy and Annie Elicanal from Leanyer in Darwin and their teen-aged children Ross Andhey and Roandelle Elicanal. I met them after obtaining their permanency status in Australia. They were bubbling with joy.

"Atty. Argel is excellent when it comes to her services because she exactly tells us what she does in every step of the



(Atty. Imelda Argel with President Fele Mann and Vice President Tessie Koblenz of Filipino Club Darwin, Inc.)

tunities she was provided to use those gifts for Him.

Reliable sources say that she soared like an eagle in the field of law and migration. Her sterling character traits and values of truth, self sacrifice, intelligence and generous heart prevailed in the practice of her profession which is an x-factor that distinguishes her from others in the profession.

A migration agent has plenty of opportunities to get rich quickly, if money is the number one consideration. It's a rarity in a modern world where money is



(Atty. Argel with more clients who already got their permanent residence)

through Atty Argel's services, spread the information or good news to others. They want to inspire and initiate others to make their move, like finding a migration agent with the caliber of Atty. Argel who is efficient in the job and who doesn't take anyone for granted like some others do.

People are entitled to know the secrets of success. The secret of Atty Argel's success in her profession as migration agent is that she attends to clients personally and has succeeded in many cases where other migration agents have

ATTY. IMELDA ARGEL

...manipud panid 20

failed or advised that the case would fail. Imelda, being a long time lawyer, knows how to find the applicable legislation when it comes to difficult cases due to her legal qualifications and 40 years of capable legal experience.

"How come Atty Argel is different from others in the job?" queried a couple who has been bored waiting while under the services of another migration agent and seriously contemplating to avail of Atty. Argel's services upon learning her skills from those who got their permanency quicker.

"Can I answer your question in few days' time?" I asked the couple. "I'm going to interview Atty Argel and let you know her secrets and to tell to others who asked me the same question".

They agreed to wait. I promised to myself to tell those clients the secrets of Atty Argel's success after interviewing her.

Luckily at that time, I was supposed to meet her in Sydney on our way to Darwin after our Asia-Australia holiday cruise on Diamond Princess. I interviewed her at a restaurant in Sydney. I discerned right away again that in spite of her popularity as a lawyer and a migration agent she exudes the aura of humility and grace. She had come to Darwin as one of the invited judges during our "Miss NT Australia Beauty Pageant" sponsored by the Filipino Club Darwin Inc., which I managed for over 22 years now as president.

Atty. Argel finished her elementary and secondary education at St Paul's College in Vigan City. She studied at St Theresa's College in Manila and graduated at the University of the Philippines, College of Law in 1970. She has two brothers, Pacifico, a retired manager of a rural bank, and Manuel, Jr., who was appointed in 1995 as Judge in the Regional Trial Court in Laoag City; and a sister, Rosario Thurston, who has been a computer professor in Australia since 1982. Her father, Manuel, Sr, a Bachelor of Laws graduate at Georgetown University in Washington DC, used to be a Regional Trial Court Judge in Caloocan City. Her mom, a member of the famous clan in Lahoz, was also a lawyer.

"How and when did you migrate to Australia?"

"I came to Australia as a permanent resident immigrant in 1988. Before immigrating to Australia, I had my own law practice in Metro Manila, which was why I could hardly get a job in Sydney when I arrived. They always say I am over-qualified. They saw in my resume that I was one of the highest-paid corporate lawyers in the Philippines. I worked in the biggest

law firm in the world, Baker & McKenzie, in 1999, which became worldwide in 1988. As I couldn't get a job, my friends in the diplomatic group advised me to put up my own migration practice office, which was what I did and the rest is his-



(Atty. Imelda Argel with friends and clients and Fele Mann, Annie & Rudy Elicanal in Darwin)

tory. It worked wonders which put me where I am today."

Among her many most significant achievements is the recognition bestowed by the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) Licensure Board Examinations in the assessment of qualifications under NOOSR's the Philippine Country Education Profile (CEP). Through her representations in the Federal Parliament, a PRC Board Passer is now recognized as a holder of Australian Bachelor degree. She is the author of Time-Saving Immigration Practice Solutions (TIPS) on General Skilled Migration (GSM) visas, published online.

Atty. Argel was the first recipient of the Filipino Australian Women's Achievement Award (FAWAA) for corporate practice/entrepreneurship in New South Wales. She received the award in 2006. In 2008, she was awarded the first "Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award for Law" and for the "Community Service" by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Australia in New South Wales.

She continues to push beyond the boundaries of what is possible and obtains exemplary results in the service of Filipinos worldwide.

"What about the challenges you have encountered as lawyer and migration agent in Australia?"

"A lot them," she said. "For example, when a client does not appear to be able to meet criteria for visa grant, I always find a way by obtaining more information during the interview with the client. Through skill I always find evidence to meet the criteria. I concentrate on the merits of the case rather than the collection of money. I get 90 percent rate of success and the 10 percent is because the client doesn't meet the whole truth. I don't accept the money

unless they have a chance for success and don't collect money that I don't deserve. I thank God for my clean science. I know God points a finger at - you are accountable for what you do when you don't do what is right, so better to do right all the time and clean with the word accountability."

Now on her 16th year of migration practice, Imelda holds an impeccable track record which only one partner application ever refused but still pending at the Migration Review Tribunal.

Argel writes articles on immigration issues of general interest for newspapers in various States in Australia and overseas. To read her published articles on immigration visas and testimonials of clients, visit the website www.argel.com.au and click on articles and testimonials. Some of Imelda's works are published online at www.migrationprecidents.com.au and at www.srball.com.au for purchase by other registered migration agents. The fee for first consultation will be waived for residents of LOTL who attend with a copy of article.

Looking younger as ever, she has a retirement plan but to keep on working, God, she said, wants her to retire. "That's when He will give her the rest which she will obediently abide. In meantime, she will keep on enjoying and the work she is very good at."

What makes her proud and happy is what's her message to TMI Global PCHN readers?

"I am contented, proud and happy knowing that I've done my best, using talents and skills that God has given me to help others. I leave things in God's hands and I don't worry and so I sleep peacefully. I compensate God's blessings to Him by being honest, consistently maintaining integrity to the highest level and giving best performance to my clients. And I'm proud of my son, who has been the financial manager of Proctor and Gamble in Australia for the past 10 years now. God is good for giving me a son like him who is worthy of emulation."

"My message to Timpuyog and Mannurat nga Ilokano readers: "I will have a link in my website to promote the Ilokano Literature, TMI Global and Timpuyog Journal so that all my Filipino Australian clients can access and read articles in there and also about migration to Australia"

Needless to say, Atty. Argel has become one of my best friends in Australia not only because she agreed to become a sponsor and subscriber of Timpuyog Journal (which I'm spearheading and promoting) but because she is someone uniquely very special, a consummate role model of honesty, integrity and performance. (#