

WALNUT CREEK OFFICE
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BLVD.
SUITE 800
WALNUT CREEK, CA. 94596
TELEPHONE: (925) 222-5074

UKIAH OFFICE
308 S. SCHOOL STREET
UKIAH, CA. 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 376-1010

SAN JOSE OFFICE
111 N. MARKET ST., STE. 300
SAN JOSE, CA. 95113
TELEPHONE: (408) 963-0355

KEROSKY PURVES & BOGUE LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
785 MARKET STREET, 15TH FLOOR,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103
TELEPHONE: (415) 777 4445

LOS ANGELES OFFICE
8484 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 745
BEVERLY HILLS, CA. 90211
TELEPHONE: (323) 782-3877

SANTA ROSA OFFICE
131 A STONY CIRCLE
SUITE 500
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95401
(707) 433-2060

NAPA OFFICE
1041 JEFFERSON STREET, STE 3
NAPA, CA. 94559
TELEPHONE: (707) 224-2722

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
770 L ST., SUITE 950,
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95814
TELEPHONE: (916) 349-2900

www.KPBimmigrationlawfirm.com

The Sonoma County Gazette published my article on the DACA / DREAM Act program. Here's the link and the article, in case you're interested:

<http://www.sonomacountygazette.com/cms/pages/sonoma-county-news-article-996.html>



A Warm Welcome to One Million Members of Our Community

By Christopher Kerosky

Every day, they come to my law office and other law offices all over Sonoma County now. They come with tidy stacks of records from their years of life in the United States - vaccination cards, dog-eared school grade cards, pay stubs from high school jobs, college awards. The older ones come by themselves or with their spouses. The younger ones come with anxious parents. All of them are expectant, nervous but hopeful.

These are the DREAMers, the young people covered by President Obama's Executive Order, effectively implementing the DREAM Act, which Congress could not pass. They are undocumented youth brought here by their parents, usually without a visa. They have grown up in our county without papers: without a social security card, without a driver's license, without a real future.

Sonoma County has many thousands of DREAMers. They attend high school with our kids. They wait on us at restaurants. They often excel at Santa Rosa Junior College or Sonoma State. Our county has been enriched by their presence and yet they have suffered with the fear, the anxiety and the helplessness that goes along with lacking legal status from the US government. They were unable to get school financial aid or move forward with a career. Most cannot even drive legally. If they did, they risked being deported to a country many of them never knew.

These are the invisible "illegals" that the anti-immigrant forces in this country like to attack. In fact, they are our neighbors.

In June, the Obama Administration has given them the first opportunity in their lives to obtain legal status. In one stroke of both political genius and humanitarianism, President Obama created a "deferred status" program for as many as 1 million young people living in the United States. To qualify, applicants had to come here before their 16th birthday and be under 31 years old. They need to have spent at least 5 years here and either obtained a high school diploma or be presently studying. Persons with a criminal record are largely disqualified.

Now, thanks to the Obama re-election, this program is no longer in danger. Mitt Romney had called it ill-advised and promised to kill it. That would have returned these kids to their undocumented status and taken away their hope. Apart from the other tangible consequences of the Obama victory, this is the most profound for me: up to one million young, talented members of our communities will be finally given a chance. They no longer have to live in the shadows, fearing an ICE agent at every knock on the door, or deportation every time a policeman pulls over their car.

The politicians who thought they would self-deport did not understand their lives. Moving to Mexico would be like moving to a foreign country for them. Their lives are here. As the President said, they have grown up pledging allegiance to our flag.

Now they have truly something to be thankful for this New Year: a future.

But what about their parents and their older siblings? They won't self-deport either. Should we deport the other 10 million undocumented immigrants living in our midst?

Our country is better than that. Let's hope Congress will have the wisdom and humanity to pass comprehensive immigration reform next year and give millions more of our neighbors the legal status they've been waiting years for. They deserve a future too.

CHRISTOPHER A. KEROSKY is an immigration lawyer with offices in Santa Rosa and San Francisco. He has practiced law since 1984 and has been recognized as one of the top immigration lawyers in Northern California for the last seven years by San Francisco Magazine "Super Lawyers" edition (2006-2012). He lives with his family in West Sonoma County.