



AMERICAN

BIRTHRIGHT

ON

TRIAL!

An indictment against the most brutal U.S.-sponsored holocaust in the Philippines! And a story of how those who survived were collectively stripped of their United States citizenship!

ELLYVELEZPAMATONG

About the Author

ELLY VELEZ LAO PAMATONG is a human rights lawyer based in San Francisco, California and in New York City. He has written nine books, five (5) of which have already been published in the United States. He is also the owner and publisher of the *Asian American Voice*, an ethnic newspaper published in New York and California. Moreover, he is the president of the Filipino American Media Organization of the United States (FAMOUS, INC.)

As a lawyer, he practiced his profession both in the Philippines and in the United States for more than 20 years. While in California, he filed a lawsuit against the United States in order to obtain American citizenship for all Filipinos born during the territorial period under Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment. He presented his oral arguments before a 3-man judicial panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on August 8, 1992 and scored a 2-1 moral victory on September 20, 1994. In this case, Judge Harry Pregerson ruled that Filipinos are still citizens of the United States.

He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Silliman University in 1965, and graduated from the College of Law of the University of the Philippines in 1970. Among his extracurricular achievements are the following: **Official Debater, University of the Philippines, 1967**; **"Orator of the Year" awardee, Silliman University, 1965**; Champion Impromptu Speaker, Silliman University, 1965; and Champion Spanish Declaimer, Silliman University, 1965.

As a lawyer, he is a **member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, Supreme Court of the Philippines, and Supreme Court of the State of New York**. He is also a member of the American Trial Lawyers' Association, American Bar Association, and a lifetime member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Following President Marcos' declaration of martial law in 1972, he fled from the Philippines through the southern back-door. In 1994, he was **accorded a U.N. Refugee Mandate Status by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through the assistance of the Catholic Migration Commission and the United States Mission in Geneva, Switzerland**. Subsequently, the UNHCR obtained a Canadian immigrant status for Elly Velez Pamatong. However, when he reached New York in 1974, he abandoned that status and sought political asylum in the United States.

When Marcos fell from power, he returned to the Philippines and, among others, organized the Save Our Soldiers Movement (SOS). Recently, he filed a lawsuit against 30 tobacco firms in the Philippines claiming that nicotine is a poison and no person should be allowed to enrich himself by poisoning or murdering the Filipino people.

Finally, Elly Velez Lao Pamatong is currently promoting the **FORWARD MERITOCRACY** movement throughout the Philippines. (LFDMP)

