



9 Memorial Parkway  
Suite B  
Long Branch, NJ 07740

732-962-6174  
WWW.ANDRESMEJERLAW.COM

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOISE, ID  
PERMIT 411

Si prefiere recibir este boletín en español, por favor llame al 732-962-6174 o mande un email a info@andresmejerlaw.com

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Proud to be an American	Page 1
Scavenging Fit	Page 2
Ask Andres	Page 2
Testimonial	Page 3
Employee Spotlight	Page 3
Fourth of July, Latino Style	Page 4

# FOURTH OF JULY, LATINO STYLE



*This month, Independence Day was celebrated here in the United States, and while many immigrants were excited to celebrate their new home, they still had a heritage to honor. That's what makes Fourth of July festivities with a Latino twist, which expresses appreciation for American independence and Latino cultural traditions, a great combination! Following is the story of such a combination. How did you celebrate your Fourth? Share your stories on Andres Mejer Law's Facebook page!*

This Fourth of July, the first item on our list was food. Most Americans like to fire up the grill on the Fourth for barbecued meats, and we did the same. To evoke our cultural roots, we threw in some spices, salsas, and side dishes that are traditional to our heritage. We gave every main dish at our celebration a Hispanic flavor, and we mixed and matched the side dishes with American and Hispanic foods to show our affinity for both.

The next item on our list was music. Nothing calls our own culture to mind like a playlist of Latin rhythms you can dance or sing to. We were even able to find Latin versions of patriotic American songs on YouTube.

Once we had the food and the music picked out, the next step was thinking about what activities we wanted to do. We decided on a piñata full of candy for the kids to play with, and dancing for the adults. Of course, no matter where you're from, the Fourth of July just isn't quite the same without fireworks. They are always an amazing spectacle to behold, connecting us back through the decades to the Americans and immigrants before us who marveled at fireworks and contemplated what it means to be an American. With that in mind, we made sure to include these bursting beauties in our celebration, and we hope you enjoyed them in yours!

# mejer's musings

andres mejer law

www.AndresMejerLaw.com

JULY 2015

## PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Can you believe it? This is America!

Sometimes, you just have to take a step back and marvel at where you live. It's the land of the free, home of the brave. In the spirit of America's birthday this month, I just wanted to pause and remind everyone what it really means to be an American.

For so many, America means a refuge from the injustice and persecution of their home country. It means access to education, opportunity, and equality. It means providing a better life for your kids than you had.

What it means to be American is something I've talked about many times with my kids. My husband, Andres, is an immigration attorney, and it's no secret that his family immigrated to the United States when he was just five years old. Under Ronald Reagan, his family was fortunate to receive amnesty and now enjoys the privileges of being Americans.

And you may not realize it, but my family immigrated too. They came to America in the 1800s, so I'm the fifth or sixth generation of Americans in my family. Whether your family came to America five weeks ago or five generations ago, you're just as entitled to call America home — and that's why it's such an amazing country.

I encourage you to spend America's birth month reflecting on what it means to be American. Are you proud to be in this country? Hopefully you didn't just treat the holiday as an excuse to buy fireworks and eat hot dogs. It's so much more than that.

The celebration doesn't have to stop now that the Fourth of July is over! There are some other exciting American-themed holidays coming up in July. They're definitely not as popular or well-advertised as the Fourth, but why turn down a chance to have some fun?

Coming up on July 19 (the third Sunday in July) is National Ice Cream Day. This holiday was established by our good friend President Reagan in 1984. Watch for your local ice cream shops to give away free ice cream on July 19 — and even if they don't, pick up a scoop anyway in commemoration of this American treat. I know we'll be celebrating, as my family happens to love ice cream. My son's favorite flavor is cotton candy, my daughter's is chocolate chip cookie dough, my husband's is coffee, and mine is cake batter.

The next holiday is July 20, Moon Day. This is the day Neil Armstrong walked on the moon back in 1969. The NASA mission was an American milestone, but it was for all people of all countries: "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind."

If you didn't get enough hot dogs on Fourth of July, you'll be excited to participate in the festivities on National Hot Dog Day this July 23! You'd be hard-pressed to find many holidays more American than National Hot Dog Day.

Lastly, July 26 is Aunt and Uncle Day. Since Mother's Day and Father's Day have passed, now's a great time to celebrate the aunts and uncles in your life. I know my kids love my husband's brother (their uncle) and think of him as someone they can count on to talk with, play with, and support them.

I urge you to celebrate some American holidays. Remember what an honor it is to be in this country and commemorate that fact with holidays big and small. You don't have to forget about your own heritage to display a little bit of patriotism during America's birthday month!

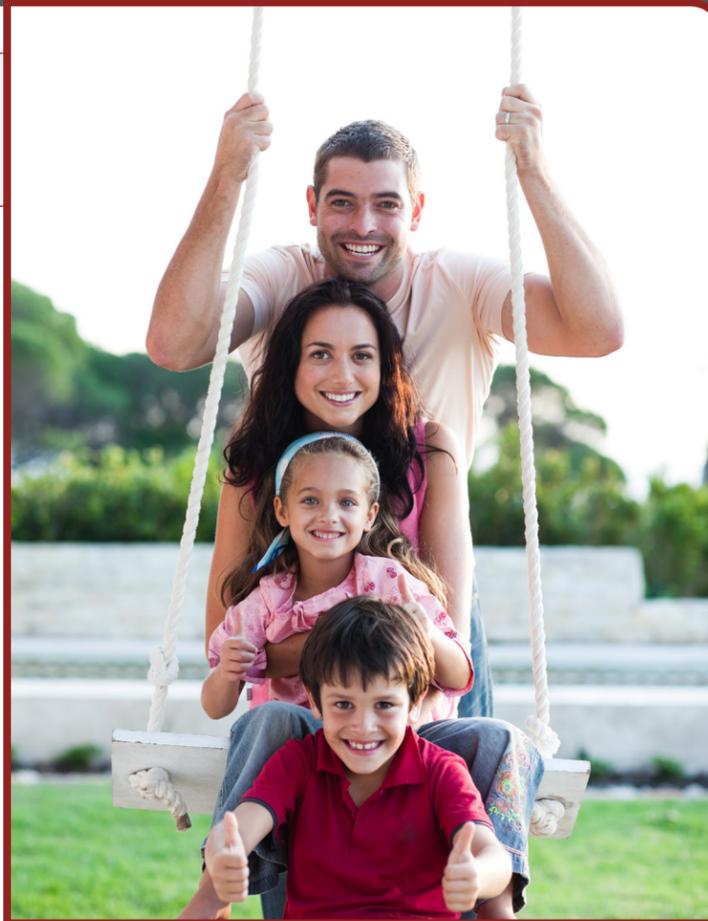
— Kim



# SCAVENGING FIT

Getting the whole gang active can be a major venture! Making it fun is even harder... But if your family is lacking in motion and craving something fit and fun, you might want to try a fitness scavenger hunt. It's an easy event that makes fitness rewarding, exciting, and all-inclusive! Start off by brainstorming some fun activities that will make up your "hunt." Provide clues for each station and set different requirements for completion. They can be anything and everything that gets their hearts pumping. Have the kiddos find a Hula-Hoop and do 100 hulas, or maybe somersault across the yard to a hidden clue leading them to the basketball court for a game!

Make it interactive and reward the winner with something that is a bit funky and will keep them trying. Maybe it's one week of skipping their least favorite chore, or picking a favorite meal and movie for Friday night. Keep a record of who is in the lead and remember to make it an activity that everyone has the potential to enjoy. Include silly exercises as well as serious ones — if it doesn't seem like work, it will feel more like a rewarding activity, and you can watch your kids look forward to staying in scavenging shape!



ASK ANDRES

# NATURALIZATION

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR NATURALIZATION?

If you've been a lawful permanent resident, and living in the U.S. for a number of years, you may be ready to apply for U.S. citizenship, also known as naturalization. In order to apply for naturalization, you must first meet several requirements. You must be:

- 18 years or older.
- A lawful permanent resident for five years. If you are married to a U.S. citizen, the requirement is three years.
- In the U.S. for 30 months (of a total of at least 60 months) during your five years as a lawful permanent resident. If you are married to a citizen, then you must have spent 18 months in the U.S. during the last three years (or 36 months).
- In the state or district where you begin the naturalization process for three months before applying.
- In the U.S. for an extended period of time, and you must not have stayed outside of the U.S. for over 180 days in any single trip for the last five years (or three years if married to a citizen).
- Able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Knowledgeable of the fundamentals of U.S. history as well as the form and principles of U.S. government (civics).

- Able to show you are a person of "good moral character" (you have no criminal record).
- Not in default for any prior years of back taxes.
- Signed up for Selective Service (for possible service in the U.S. Armed Forces), if you are a male between 18 and 26 years old.
- Willing to support the U.S. Constitution, to perform civilian or military service if required, and be willing to take the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.

Ready to apply for naturalization? In order to get the most out of your application and ensure accuracy, we encourage you to give us a call at **888-695-6169**. Our knowledgeable staff will help answer your questions, and put you on the path toward naturalization!



# SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON NOEMI

Noemi has been with us for a while now. She first started as a calendar coordinator, but she was recently promoted to a paralegal in the past month. She emigrated from Mexico to the United States when she was just three years old, so she is passionate about the work we do for immigrants.

As a paralegal, Noemi reviews cases, puts cases together, schedules appointments for digital fingerprinting, and assists other paralegals in a variety of important tasks. Prior to all this, she started here as an intern while attending Brookdale's paralegal program. After a recruiter contacted her about interning with us, she accepted — and the internship eventually transitioned into a full-time job here!

Noemi's favorite part of being a paralegal at Andres Mejer Law is helping people. She feels good about herself

because she strongly believes in the work we do. Another thing that she loves about the position is how much she learns on the job. She's excited not just to learn about being a paralegal in the classroom, but to get some real-world experience in the legal profession!

When Noemi isn't working with us, she is completing her associate's degree through the Brookdale Community College. In her free time, Noemi likes going to the gym, reading mystery books, walking her adorable Pomeranian/Chihuahua mix, cooking, and writing poetry. She also enjoys time with family. Noemi just got married last July, so she spends a lot of time with her husband, but she also tries to go to church on Sunday and visit with her grandma there. We're very pleased to have Noemi on the case!

# MASSIMO MOTOR WORKS: A PASSION FOR AUTOMOBILES



Massimo Bottino has always loved cars. At just 14 years old, he realized cars were a passion, and not just a hobby. Automobiles became a lifelong obsession. You might say his heart beats to the rhythm of a 1989 Porsche 911 Turbo.

When Massimo was young, he used to pore through books, learning the ins and outs of various automobiles. He loved taking things apart and putting them back together, wanting to know every detail. What made these machines work?

During high school, Massimo spent afternoons at his uncle's garage, where he was surrounded by cars. He didn't always get to work on the cars. Instead, he helped out with the smaller stuff, from sweeping to other chores. Eventually, his responsibilities increased and he was finally able to get his hands dirty, doing what he loved most: fixing cars.

Through years of hard work and learning the finer points of automotive repair, Massimo worked up the ranks, not only immigrating to the U.S., but working as a technician at several establishments in New Jersey, until 2004 when he opened up Massimo Motor Works. In 2012, he opened up a second location, and today, he continues to live his passion.

We are proud to recommend Max. He keeps my cars on the road — I can't afford to not make a court appearance because of car troubles!

## MASSIMO MOTOR WORKS

208 CLINTON PLACE  
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740  
732-571-9002

430 BROAD ST  
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702  
732-268-7192

# BELIZEAN-STYLE HABANERO SAUCE

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 cup carrot, chopped
- 2 cups water
- 10 habanero peppers, seeded and finely chopped (more or less based on the heat level you desire.)
- 3 tablespoons lime juice (can also use orange juice)
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Optional: papayas, prickly pear fruit, or mango

## DIRECTIONS

1. Sauté garlic in coated sauce pan.
2. Once the garlic starts to give off its aroma, add the onion, carrots, and water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until the carrots are soft.
3. Remove from heat.
4. Add habaneros, optional fruits, lime juice, and salt to the carrot mixture.
5. Place in a blender and puree until contents reach a smooth consistency.
6. Pour into sterilized bottles or jars and seal. Keep refrigerated.

DO YOU HAVE A DELICIOUS RECIPE TO SHARE? Send it our way on Facebook at facebook.com/AndresMejerLaw and it could be published in our next edition!