



PHILJA Bulletin



January to March 2007

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From the Chancellor's Desk

PHILJA carried on fearlessly in this hectic first quarter of the year despite the absence of funding for its programs. It was compelled to resort to borrowing from the Fiscal Management Budget Office (FMBO) while awaiting its appropriation from the national budget. We are grateful to our development partners for having kept us busy and going.

We shared the gratification and elation of the group of fifteen participants over the high level discussions and productive sessions at the 7-Day Course on International Criminal Law for Philippine Justices and Judges at The Hague, Netherlands, in February. Led by Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna, the participants described their attendance at the Course as “a great and memorable experience.” As we write, the group has been meeting to implement their recommendations, particularly for PHILJA to foster the development of institutional expertise in international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law.

We continue to collaborate with our funding partners in providing quality judicial training and in the production of materials to realize our goals for a strengthened, effective and performing judiciary. The successful launch of the Annotated New Code of Judicial Conduct was followed by the distribution of copies thereof to judges nationwide. Seminars on Law and Economic Development Issues for the Philippine Judiciary continue to be held utilizing the Reference Manual on Law and Economic Development Issues launched late last year.

Playing its part in ensuring that the judiciary is gender-sensitive, the Academy held the seminar-workshop on CEDAW for the remaining batch of court attorneys and, for the first time, for selected judges of the National Capital Judicial Region, all of whom declared the CEDAW seminars effective in enhancing their capabilities for improved performance of their duties.

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PHILJA ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

44TH AND 45TH ORIENTATION SEMINAR- WORKSHOP FOR NEWLY APPOINTED JUDGES

The 44th Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Newly Appointed Judges was held on January 31 to February 8, 2007, at the PHILJA Development Center, Tagaytay City. In attendance were forty-five (45) judges, comprising forty-two (42) newly appointed judges and three (3) promoted judges.

A. NEW APPOINTMENTS

REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS

REGION II

Hon. Oscar T. Zaldivar
RTC Br. 7, Aparri, Cagayan

REGION III

Hon. Liberty O. Castañeda
RTC Paniqui, Tarlac

REGION IV

Hon. Ulysses D. Delgado
RTC Br. 44, Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental
Hon. Mary Josephine P. Lazaro
RTC Br. 74, Antipolo City, Rizal
Hon. Wilfredo D. Mayor
RTC Br. 14, Nasugbu, Batangas
Hon. Daniel C. Villanueva
RTC Br. 54, Lucena City

REGION VII

Hon. Toribio S. Quiwag
RTC Br. 27, Lapu-Lapu City

REGION IX

Hon. Ernesto Maximo Victor E. Laurel
RTC Br. 30, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS

NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION

Hon. Voltaire P. Agas
MeTC Br. 35, Quezon City
Hon. Felicitas O. Laron-Cacanindin
MeTC Br. 19, Manila
Hon. Madonna C. Echiverri
MeTC Br. 41, Quezon City
Hon. Nadine Jessica Corazon J. Fama
MeTC Br. 38, Quezon City

Hon. Marlina M. Manuel
MeTC Br. 8, Manila
Hon. Bonifacio S. Pascua
MeTC Br. 44, Pasay City
Hon. Roberto P. Quiroz
MeTC Br. 10, Manila
Hon. Jaime B. Santiago
MeTC Br. 12, Manila
Hon. Maria Zoraida S. Zabat-Tuazon
MeTC Br. 23, Manila

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES

REGION I

Hon. Roberto R. Mabalot
MTCC Br. 1, Baguio City

REGION II

Hon. Norman C. Gañac
MTCC Br. 4, Tuguegarao, Cagayan

REGION IV

Hon. Priscilla U. Acedera
MTCC San Pedro, Laguna
Hon. Carolina I. Sison
MTCC Calamba City, Laguna
Hon. Grace P. Chavez-Ty
MTCC Br. 3, Lipa City, Batangas

REGION V

Hon. Lorna O. Reyes
MTCC Br. 1, Iriga City

REGION VI

Hon. Ofelia M. Artuz
MTCC Br. 5, Iloilo City

REGION IX

Hon. Pablito S. Pielago, Jr.
MTCC Br. 2, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur

REGION IX

Hon. Nancy B. Cuaresma
MTCC Br. 1, Zamboanga City

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS

REGION I

Hon. Mary George C. Caldonia
MTC Mapandan, Pangasinan
Hon. Rebecca A. Fernandez
MTC Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Hon. Maria Laarni R. Parayno
MTC Binmaley, Pangasinan

REGION III

Hon. Erick A. Sadural
MTC Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija

REGION IV

Hon. Elizabeth M. San Juan-Mata
MTC Gumaca, Quezon

REGION V

Hon. Jorge John S. Aganan
MTC Caramon, Camarines Sur

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS**REGION I**

Hon. Harriet C. Cabreros
12th MCTC Binalonan-Laoac, Pangasinan
Hon. Mario S. Domingo
MCTC Magsingal, San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Hon. Marvin A. Galacgac
6th MCTC Espiritu-Nueva Era-Ilocos Norte
Hon. Pedro R. Rosal
2nd MCTC San Vicente-San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur

REGION II

Hon. Jesusa L. Carag
6th MCTC Solana-Enrile, Cagayan

REGION V

Hon. Antonio E. De Vera
4th MCTC Gubat-Prieto-Diaz, Sorsogon
Hon. Amado D. Dimaano
1st MCTC Casiguran-Juban, Sorsogon

REGION VIII

Hon. Ateneones S. Bacale
2nd MCTC Biliran-Cabugayan, Biliran
Hon. Mario N. Melchor, Jr.
6th MCTC Calubian-San Isidro, Leyte

REGION XII

Hon. Annabelle D.P. Piang
1st MCTC Parang-Matanong-Buldon-Barira,
Maguindanao

2. PROMOTIONS**REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS****NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION**

Hon. Thelma Bunyi-Medina
RTC Br. 32, Manila
Hon. Ma. Theresa G. Estoesta
RTC Br. 7, Manila

REGION X

Hon. Gil G. Bollozos
RTC Br. 21, Cagayan de Oro City

On the other hand, the 45^h Orientation Seminar-Workshop was held on March 14 to 22, 2007, at the PHILJA Development Center, Tagaytay City. In

attendance were fifty (50) participants, comprising forty-seven (47) newly appointed judges and three (3) promoted judges.

A. NEW APPOINTMENTS**REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS****REGION II**

Hon. Reymundo L. Aumentado
RTC Br. 20, Cauayan, Isabela
Hon. Marivic A. Cacatian-Beltran
RTC Br. 3, Tuguegarao, Cagayan

REGION III

Hon. Evelyn A. Atienza-Turla
RTC Br. 40, Palayan, Nueva Ecija

REGION IV

Hon. Sonia T. Yu-Casano
RTC Br. 31, San Pedro, Laguna

REGION V

Hon. Domingo B. Maristela, Jr.
RTC Br. 49, Cataingan, Masbate

REGION VI

Hon. Globert J. Justalero
RTC Br. 32, Iloilo City

REGION VII

Hon. Edito Y. Enemecio
RTC Br. 25, Danao City, Cebu

REGION VIII

Hon. Lauro Andres P. Castillo, Jr.
RTC Br. 36, Carigara, Leyte
Hon. Crescente F. Maraya, Jr.
RTC Br. 11, Calubian, Leyte

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT**NATIONAL JUDICIAL CAPITAL REGION**

Hon. Rossi S. Mantala-Castro
MeTC Br. 28, Manila

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES**REGION IV**

Hon. Agripino R. Bravo
MTCC Br. 2, Lipa City, Batangas

REGION VI

Hon. Jose Paolo G. Ariola
MTCC Br. 1, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

REGION X

Hon. Rico A. Tan
MTCC Br. 3, Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental

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MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS**REGION II**

Hon. Olga L. Oleriana
MTC Peñablanca, Cagayan

REGION III

Hon. Leo Cecilio D. Bautista
MTC Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija
Hon. Ronald P. Sandoval
MTC Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija

REGION IV

Hon. Ralph S. Arellano
MTC Br. 2, San Pedro, Laguna
Hon. Patricia Angeles C. Fidel
MTC Cuenca, Batangas
Hon. Edwina M. Perez
MTC San Antonio, Quezon

REGION V

Hon. Eli C. Posugac
MTC Siruma, Camarines Sur

REGION VI

Hon. Dyna Doll Chiongson Trocio
MTC Binalbagan, Negros Occidental

REGION VIII

Hon. Fabio T. Albao, Jr.
MTC Liloan, Southern Leyte
Hon. Marisa R. Posion
MTC Leyte, Leyte

REGION XI

Hon. Joseph A. Palmes
MTC Tampakan, South Cotabato

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS**REGION I**

Hon. Alan M. Ordoño
1st MCTC San Juan-San Gabriel, La Union

REGION IV

Hon. Librado P. Chavez
5th MCTC Talisay-Laurel, Batangas
Hon. Josielyn D. Lara-De Luna
5th MCTC Carmona-Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite
Hon. Marienette D. Padua
1st MCTC Lucban-Sampaloc, Quezon

REGION V

Hon. Mary Flor D. Tabigue-Logarta
6th MCTC Cataingan-Pio V. Corpus-Esperanza, Masbate
Hon. Diana Tambago Sanchez
7th MCTC Mobo-Milagros, Masbate

REGION VI

Hon. Sebastino A. Baguio
6th MCTC Dumalag-Tapaz, Capiz

REGION VII

Hon. Ciriaco Z. Bautista
8th MCTC Candijay-Anda, Bohol
Hon. Samuel A. Biliran
16th MCTC Carmen-Batuan, Bohol
Hon. Azucena C. Macalolot-Credo
5th MCTC Trinidad-San Miguel-Bien Unido, Bohol
Hon. Perpetuo C. Magallano, Jr.
9th MCTC Guindulman-Duerto, Bohol
Hon. Olivia M. Mende
15th MCTC Bilar-Sevilla, Bohol
Hon. Jorge T. Uba
7th MCTC Alicia-Mabini, Bohol
Hon. Laebeth L. Varquez
3rd MCTC Inabanga-Buena Vista, Bohol

REGION VIII

Hon. Reynaldo A. Alconaba
4th MCTC San Julian-Sulat, Eastern Samar
Hon. Jacinto B. Elle
4th MCTC San Juan-St. Bernard, Southern Leyte
Hon. Ana Lesa Sarsoza-Radaza
9th MCTC Bato-Matalom, Leyte

REGION IX

Hon. Reyamar L. Lacaya
3rd MCTC Sindangan-Siayan-Bacungan-Ponot
Zamboanga del Sur

REGION X

Hon. Armando S. Adlawan
6th MCTC Bonifacio-Don Mariano Marcos, Misamis Occidental
Hon. Romualdo L. Banan
4th MCTC Balingasag-Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental
Hon. Roy P. Murallon
5th MCTC Clarin-Tudela, Misamis Occidental

REGION XI

Hon. Teodulfo L. Vega
3rd MCTC Kapalong-Talaingod, Davao del Norte

REGION XII

Hon. Mahadi Mama Pimping
7th MCTC Ditsaan-Ramain-Bubong, Lanao del Sur

2. PROMOTIONS**REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS****REGION IV**

Hon. Teodoro N. Solis
RTC Br. 25, Biñan, Laguna

REGION VI

Hon. Kathrine A. Go
RTC Br. 59, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental

REGION X

Hon. Solayman G. Macato-on
RTC Br. 24, Cagayan de Oro City

12TH PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM

The Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), in partnership with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), conducted the 12th Pre-Judicature Program (PJP) on February 20 to March 27, 2007, at the IBP Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Floor, IBP Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Three hundred twenty-three (323) lawyers successfully completed the PJP while two hundred thirty-seven (237) lawyers attended for MCLE compliance only. They were broken down as follows:

| Batch | Day | Category | No. of Participants |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 st to 3 rd | PJP | 26 |
| 2 | 4 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 31 |
| | 5 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 30 |
| | 6 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 30 |
| 3 | 7 th - 9 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 23 |
| 4 | 10 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 24 |
| | 11 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 20 |
| | 12 th | PJP | 29 |
| | | MCLE | 18 |
| 5 | 13 th | PJP | 30 |
| | | MCLE | 29 |
| | 14 th | PJP | 31 |
| | | MCLE | 20 |
| | 15 th | PJP | 33 |
| | | MCLE | 12 |



CEDAW, GENDER SENSITIVITY, AND THE COURTS

PHILJA, in partnership with the Committee on Gender Responsiveness in the Judiciary (CGRJ) — Sub-Committee on Training and Capacity-Building, Ateneo Human Rights Center, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), conducted three (3) batches of the *Seminar-Workshop on CEDAW, Gender Sensitivity, and the Courts*, at the Training Center, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, in the first quarter of the year.

The first two batches were conducted on January 25 to 26, 2007, and February 22 to 23, 2007, wherein a total of thirty-one (31) and thirty-four (34) lawyer-participants from Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan and the Court of Tax Appeals attended, respectively.

On the other hand, the third batch of the seminar-workshop transpired on March 29 to 30, 2007, which was attended by a total of thirty-three (33) judges-participants from the National Capital Judicial Region.



Participants of the Seminar-Workshop on CEDAW, Gender Sensitivity, and the Courts, with Justice Ameurfina A. Melencio Herrera, PHILJA Chancellor (center) on January 25 to 26, 2007.



SPECIAL FOCUS PROGRAMS

DEMOCRACY AND LAW AT THE SERVICE OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Academy, in collaboration with the Values for Development Foundation, Inc. (VDFI), and in cooperation with the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation conducted the *Seminar on Democracy and Law at the Service of the Human Person*, on February 15 to 16, 2007, at the Eduardo Aboitiz Development Study Center, Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., 35 Lopez Jaena St., Cebu City. A total of thirty-one (31) participants comprising four (4) Court of Appeals Justices, fifteen (15) Regional Trial Court Judges, three (3) practicing lawyers, two (2) members of the academe, two (2) representatives of the Commission on Human Rights, and five (5) members of the VDFI attended the said program.

This was the second seminar of its kind by PHILJA in partnership with the VDFI. The pilot seminar which was held in Tagaytay City two years ago brought together Justices from the Supreme Court, selected lawyers, and businessmen.

STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Judicial Academy, in cooperation with The Asia Foundation (TAF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), conducted the seminar-workshop entitled *Strengthening the Implementation of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines* last March 26 to 29, 2007, at the Dynasty Court Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. A total of thirty-five (35) participants attended the said program. This was the third, in a series of five (5) seminars to update and enlighten judges and lawyers on the Islamic Law or Presidential Decree No. 1083.

Topics discussed were Comparative Studies and Overview of *Shari'a* Court System; Arbitration Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution Law of the Philippines; Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Rights and Guiding Principles on *Shari'a* Court

System for Internally Displaced Persons; Basic Computer Training; Comparative Analysis of Marriage and Divorce under the Family Code and Muslim Code; The New Code of Conduct for Court Personnel; Comparative Studies on Civil and Islamic Law on Succession; Islamic Law on Person and Family Relations; Guidelines on the Accomplishments of Monthly Reports and Financial Concern; Right Responses to the Age-Old Problems of Mindanao and the Autonomous Region; Strengthening and Reformation of *Shari'a* Court; AGAMA Arbitration Council Proceeding Under the *Shari'a* Court; and Human Rights Perspective. A workshop concluded the final day of the seminar.

LAW AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FOR THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIARY

PHILJA, in partnership with the Ateneo Law School, the Ateneo de Manila – Department of Economics, and in cooperation with the British Embassy conducted the *Seminar-Workshop on Law and Economic Development Issues for the Philippine Judiciary*, on March 27 to 28, 2007, at the Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Sr., Blvd., Quezon City. A total of twenty-two (22) participants from the Court of Tax Appeals attended, comprising five (5) justices and seventeen (17) lawyers.

Just like the previous seminar-workshops on the same topic, it aimed to provide the participants a better understanding on issues relating to money, economics, and trade laws, regulations and remedies.

Topics discussed were Basic Economics; International Economics and Sovereignty; Historical Overview of the Bretton Woods Systems; Legal Structure of the World Trade Organization and the Regulation of Trade; Do Trade Remedies Really Remedy?; Regional Trading Agreements – Building Blocks or Stumbling Blocks?; Dispute Settlement in Local Courts; and The Color of Money, *In God We Trust*.



JUDICIAL MOVES

Supreme Court

Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura
appointed on January 22, 2007



CONVENTIONS

PWJA

The Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) conducted the *Annual Convention-Seminar of the Philippine Women Judges Association* with the theme: "Judicial Power Rightly Wielded Makes A Difference" on March 1 to 2, 2007, at the Manila Hotel. A total of two hundred ninety-eight (298) participants registered in the convention-seminar. Also in attendance were lady justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and Court of Tax Appeals.

In his **Message**, Guest Speaker Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno, mentioned that the PWJA Convention is the celebration of women through a show of intelligence, industry and independence and its members managed to carve a career in the Judiciary.

PACE

The Academy and the Philippine Association of Court Employees (PACE) conducted the *National Convention-Seminar of the Philippine Association of Court of Employees*, on March 29 to 31, 2007, at the Punta Villa Resort, Iloilo City. A total of one thousand two hundred eighty-seven (1, 287) participants attended the said convention-seminar.

With the theme, "*Bringing Court Employees to a Higher Level of Professionalism through PACE*," the convention-seminar brought the participants to the utmost level of professionalism through discussions on the following topics: Records Management; Decorum In and Out of Court; Legal Fees and Revenues; Career Enhancement; and Recent Supreme Court Decisions on Administrative Cases Involving Court Personnel.



ON MEDIATION

BASIC MEDIATION COURSE

PHILJA and the Philippine Mediation Center conducted the *Basic Mediation Training Course* in two (2) batches namely, Batangas Mediation Program and Bulacan Mediation Program in the first quarter of the year.

The Batangas Mediation Program was conducted on January 22 to 25, 2007, at the Hotel Pontefino, Batangas City with a total of twenty-nine (29) participants. The Bulacan Mediation Program was conducted on March 20 to 23, 2007, at the Barcie International Malolos City, Bulacan, with a total of thirty-five (35) participants in attendance.

Lectures presented were on the following topics: Social and Cultural Context in Negotiation/Mediation; Legal versus Problem-Solving Mindsets; Mediation as Essentially Assisted Negotiation; The Philippine Judicial System: An Overview; Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM); Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution; Overview/Fundamentals of Communications; The Stages of Mediation and Communication Skills which includes six (6) stages; Parties to the Mediation Process; Writing Compromise Agreements; The Administrative and Procedural Aspects of Court-Annexed; The Rules and Guidelines on the Mediation Fees; The Mediator as an Officer of the Court; The Mediator An a Professional Mediator; and The Grievance Machinery in Court-Annexed Mediation.

ORIENTATION SEMINAR ON THE PMC OPERATION AND GRIEVANCE MACHINERY

The Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Mediation Center conducted the *Orientation Seminar on the PMC Operation and Grievance Machinery* last February 12, 2007, at the Bacolod L'Sea Restaurant, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. A total of thirty-one (31) participants attended the orientation-seminar. The orientation-seminar focused on the discussion of Operating System of PMC Structure under CAM-JRO Management and Grievance Machinery.



ON PHILJA

LAUNCHING AND PRESENTATION OF THE NEW CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT FOR THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIARY (ANNOTATED)

The Philippine Judicial Academy and University of the Philippines Institute of Judicial Administration (UP-IJA), in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the American Bar Association — Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), launched the *New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary (Annotated)*, on February 20, 2007, at the Justices' Lounge, Supreme Court.

PHILJA's, Department of Ethics and Judicial Conduct worked on the annotations to Canons 1 to 3, while UP-IJA covered Canons 4 to 6. Federal Appeals Judge Margaret McKeown, US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, and her staff provided the annotations on U.S. and international case law.

The launch was a brief and simple ceremony with the meaningful participation of distinguished guests from Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals, Office of the Court Administrator, Trial Courts, University of the Philippines Law Center and international funding agencies.

PHILJA'S 11TH FOUNDATION DAY

On March 12, 2007, the Philippine Judicial Academy marked its eleventh year of inception. On this day, PHILJA personnel attended a Human Resource Development session on Records Management conducted by Presiding Judge Marivic T. Daray, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 18, Davao del Sur. The activity is part of PHILJA's efforts to achieve an effective and organized implementation of standard work procedures. Judge Daray spoke about the Japanese 5S, which mean **seiri** or sort (clearing the work area); **seitori** or set in order (designating locations); **seiso** or shine (cleanliness and workplace appearance); **seiketzu** or standardize (everyone doing things the same way); and **shitsuze** or sustain (ingraining the 5S's into the culture). It is a system to reduce waste and optimize productivity through the maintenance of an orderly workplace for consistently favorable operational outcomes.

From the Chancellor's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

The Basic Mediation Programs, underway in the provinces of Batangas and Bulacan, are effectively increasing awareness among different sectoral groups of the benefits of alternative dispute resolution.

Newly appointed judges hailed the 44th and 45th Orientation Seminar-Workshops as programs invaluable to their successful assumption to duty for providing them with the necessary knowledge and guidelines for effective case and court management, conduct of trial proceedings and handling of administrative matters. A total of ninety-five (95) judges (90 newly appointed and 5 newly promoted) were one in rating the said seminar-workshops 100% in profitability.

Equally noteworthy is the tie-up between the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Program of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Academy's 12th Pre-Judicature Program designed for lawyers aspiring for judgeship. Many of the participants taking the course only for MCLE credits expressed interest in attending the full course to complete the required units for the 2007-2010 MCLE compliance period. We are proud of our PHILJA academic experts for their excellent and interactive lectures.

Attendees at the Seminar on Democracy and Law at the Service of the Human Person, PHILJA's second collaboration with the Values for Development Foundation, Inc., included Court of Appeals Justices and RTC Judges stationed in Cebu City, members of the academe and practitioners of private law firms. They engaged in freewheeling and productive discussions after the lectures on the essence of democracy and the rule of law with emphasis on the importance of values and human relations.

We continue to strengthen the implementation of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines with the conduct of the 4th Seminar involving *Shari'a* court interpreters, stenographers, sheriffs and clerks – court personnel who support the *Shari'a* judges in the successful implementation of the Islamic Law (P.D. 1083).

The quarter was hectic but fulfilling, with both seminar participants and staff coming away from the programs with a high feeling of accomplishment. PHILJA carries on despite all odds, aware of its important role in achieving judicial excellence.

CIVIL LAW

Doctrine of Apparent Authority.

Apparent authority, or what is sometimes referred to as the “*holding out*” theory, or doctrine of ostensible agency or agency by estoppel, has its origin from the law of agency. It imposes liability, not as the result of the reality of a contractual relationship, but rather because the actions of a principal or an employer is somehow misleading the public into believing that the relationship or the authority exists. The concept is essentially one of estoppel and has been explained in this manner:

The principal is bound by the acts of his agent with the apparent authority which he knowingly permits the agent to assume, or which he holds the agent to assume, or which he holds the agent out to the public as possessing. The question in every case is whether the principal has by his voluntary act placed the agent in such a situation that a person of ordinary prudence, conversant with business usages and the nature of the particular business, is justified in presuming that such agent has authority to perform the particular act in question.

The applicability of apparent authority in the field of hospital liability was upheld long time ago in *Irving v. Doctor Hospital of Lake Worth, Inc.* There, it was explicitly stated that “*there does not appear to be any rational basis for excluding the concept of apparent authority from the field of hospital liability.*” Thus, in cases where it can be shown that a hospital, by its actions, has held out a particular physician as its agent and/or employee and that a patient has accepted treatment from that physician in the reasonable belief that it is being rendered in behalf of the hospital, then the hospital will be liable for the physician’s negligence.

(Sandoval-Gutierrez, J., Professional Services, Inc. v. Natividad and Enrique Agana, G.R. No. 126297, January 31, 2007)



REMEDIAL LAW

Actions and utterances in judicial proceedings so far as the actual participants therein are concerned and preliminary steps leading to judicial action of an official nature have been given absolute privilege.

Since the newsletter was presented during the preliminary investigation, it was vested with a privileged character. While Philippine law is silent on the question of whether the doctrine of absolute privilege extends to statements made in preliminary investigations or other proceedings preparatory to the actual trial, the US case of *Borg v. Boas* (231 F 2d 788) makes a categorical declaration of the existence of such protection:

“It is hornbook learning that the actions and utterances in judicial proceedings so far as the actual participants therein are concerned and **preliminary steps leading to judicial action of an official nature have been given absolute privilege.** Of particular interest are proceedings leading up to prosecutions or attempted prosecutions for crime x x x [A] written charge or information filed with the prosecutor or the court is not libelous although proved to be false and unfounded. Furthermore, the information given to a prosecutor by a private person for the purpose of initiating a prosecution is protected by the same cloak of immunity and cannot be used as a basis for an action for defamation.” (*Emphasis ours*)

The ruling in *Borg* is persuasive in this jurisdiction. We see no reason why we should adopt it.

(Corona, J., Nicasio I. Alcantara v. Vicente C. Ponce and the People of the Philippines, G.R. No. 156183, February 28, 2007)



LABOR LAW

Guidelines on the transfer of employees.

Concerning the transfer of employees, these are the following jurisprudential guidelines: (a) a transfer is a movement from one position to another of equivalent rank, level or salary without break in the service or a lateral movement from one position to another of equivalent rank or salary; (b) the employer has the inherent right to transfer or reassign an employee for legitimate business purposes; (c) a transfer becomes unlawful where it is motivated by discrimination or bad faith or is effected as a form of punishment or is a demotion without sufficient cause; (d) the employer must be able to show that the transfer is not unreasonable, inconvenient, or prejudicial to the employee.

(Sandoval-Gutierrez, *J.*, Rural Bank of Cantila, Inc., and William Hotchkiss III *v.* Arjay Ronnel H. Julve, G.R. No. 169750, February 27, 2007)

CIVIL LAW

Manner of establishing filiation of children.

The Court has laid down the manner of establishing the filiation of children, whether legitimate or illegitimate, as follows:

The filiation of illegitimate children, like legitimate children, is established by (1) the record of birth appearing in the civil register or a final judgment; or (2) an admission of legitimate filiation in a public document or a private handwritten instrument and signed by the parent concerned. In the absence thereof, filiation shall be proved by (1) the open and continuous possession of the status of a legitimate child; or (2) any other means allowed by the Rules of Court and special laws. The due recognition of an illegitimate child in a record of birth, a will, a statement before a court of record, or in any authentic writing is, in itself a consummated act of acknowledgment of the child, and no further action is required. In fact any authentic writing is treated not just a ground from compulsory recognition; it is in itself a voluntary recognition that does not require a separate action for judicial approval.

(Callejo, Sr. *J.*, Reynaldo Rodriguez and Nancy A. Rodriguez *v.* Concordia Ong Lim, Eurestes Lim and Elmer Lim, G.R. No. 135817, November 30, 2006)

MERCANTILE LAW

The approval of the Rehabilitation Plan and appointment of a rehabilitation receiver merely suspend the actions for claims against the corporation.

We are not convinced that the approval of the Rehabilitation Plan impairs petitioner bank's impaired lien over the mortgaged properties. Section 6(c) of P.D. 902-A provides that "upon appointment of a management committee, rehabilitation receiver, board or body, pursuant to this Decree, **all actions for claims** against corporations, partnerships or associations under management or receivership pending before any court, tribunal, board or body shall be **suspended.**"

By that statutory provision, it is clear that the approval of the Rehabilitation Plan and appointment of a rehabilitation receiver merely **suspend the actions for claims** against respondent corporations. Petitioner bank's preferred status over the unsecured creditors relative to the mortgage liens is retained, but the **enforcement of such preference is suspended.** The loan agreements between the parties have not been set aside and petitioner bank may still enforce its preference when the assets of ASB Group of Companies will be liquidated. Considering that the provisions of the loan agreements are merely suspended, there is no impairment of contracts, specifically its lien in the mortgaged properties.

(Sandoval-Gutierrez, *J.*, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company *v.* ASB Holdings, Inc., *et. al.*, G.R. No. 166197, February 27, 2007)

REMEDIAL LAW

The filing of a complaint or information in court does not prevent the Justice Secretary from exercising his review power. Neither can such complaint or information deter him from ordering the withdrawal of the cases. However, he cannot impose his opinion on the trial court. The determination of the case is within the court's exclusive jurisdiction and competence.

Under R.A. No. 5180, in connection with Rule 112, Section 4 of the Rules of Court, and as further implemented by Department Circular No. 70 (otherwise known as the "2000 National Prosecution Service Rule on Appeal"), the Justice

REMEDIAL LAW (continued)

Secretary is vested with the power to review resolutions of the provincial, city prosecutor or chief state prosecutor. He has the power to re-evaluate the position taken by his subordinates in a case. Corollary to this power, he may also direct the public prosecutor to dismiss or cause the dismissal of the complaint or information.

Contrary to the theory of petitioners, the filing of a complaint or information in court does not prevent the Justice Secretary from exercising his review power. Neither can such complaint or information deter him from ordering the withdrawal of the case. As a matter of fact, in *Crespo v. Mogul* (GR. No. L-53373, 30 June 1987), we declared that the public prosecutor (as the Justice Secretary's subordinate) may still opt to withdraw the Information either upon instruction of the Justice Secretary or for purposes of reinvestigation.

Furthermore, *Crespo* merely laid down the rule that, while the Secretary of Justice has the power to alter or modify the resolution of his subordinate and thereafter direct the withdrawal of the case, *he cannot, however, impose his will on the court*. Thus, the rule is –

“[O]nce a complaint or information is filed in Court any disposition of the case as its dismissal or the conviction or acquittal of the accused rests [on] the sound discretion of the Court. Although the fiscal retains the direction and control of the prosecution of the criminal cases even while the case is already in Court[,] he cannot impose his opinion on the trial court. The determination of the case is within [the court's] exclusive jurisdiction and competence. A motion to dismiss the case filed by the fiscal should be addressed to the sound discretion of the Court [that] has the option to grant or deny the same. It does not matter if this is done before or after a reinvestigation or upon instructions of the Secretary of Justice who reviewed the records of the investigation.”

(Corona, J., Ernesto Dumlaog, Jr., et. al., v. Hon. Rodolfo Ponferrada, Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 41, Manila, et. al., G.R. No. 146707, November 29, 2006.)

Injunction may only be resorted to when there is a pressing necessity to avoid injurious consequences that cannot be remedied under any standard compensation.

Injunction is an extraordinary remedy to be resorted to when there is a pressing necessity to avoid injurious consequences that cannot be remedied under any standard compensation. A court may issue an injunction only if it is fully convinced of its extreme necessity and after it has complied with the procedural requirements set by law.

In the absence of fraud, dishonesty or corruption, the acts of a judge in his judicial capacity are not subject to disciplinary action. However, the assailed judicial acts must not be in gross violation of clearly established law or procedure, with which every judge must be familiar. Every judge, while presiding over a court of law, must have the basic rules at the palm of his hands and maintain professional competence at all times.

(Carpio, J., Fortune Life Insurance Company, Inc., v. Judge Jimmy H.F. Luczon, Jr., A.M. No. RTJ-05-1901, November 30, 2006)

The accused may be convicted only of the crime with which he is charged; exception.

The Constitution mandates that the accused, in all criminal prosecutions, shall enjoy the right to be informed of the nature and cause of accusation against him. From this fundamental precept proceeds the rule that the accused may be convicted only of the crime with which he is charged.

An exception to this rule is the rule on variance in Section 4, Rule 120 of the Rules of Court:

Judgment in case of variance between allegation and proof. – When there is variance between the offense charged in the complaint or information, and that proved, and the offense as charged is included in or necessarily includes the offense proved, the accused shall be convicted of the offense proved which is included in the offense charged, or of the offense charged which is included in that which is proved.

(Corona, J., Clement John Ferdinand M. Navarette v. People of the Philippines, G.R. No. 147913, January 31, 2007)

REMEDIAL LAW (continued)

The appellate court may extend the time for the payment of docket fees if appellant is able to show that there is a justifiable reason for the failure to pay the correct amount of docket fees within the prescribed period.

Section 3, Rule 46 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure provides:

Sec. 3. *Contents and filing of petition; effect of non-compliance with requirements.* – The petition shall contain the full names and actual addresses of all the petitioners and respondents, a concise statement of the matters involved, the factual background of the case, and the grounds relied upon for the relief prayed for.

x x x

The petitioner shall pay the corresponding docket and other lawful fees to the clerk of court and deposit the amount of P500.00 for costs at the time of the filing of the petition.

The failure of the petitioner to comply with any of the foregoing requirements shall be sufficient ground for the dismissal of the petition.” (*Emphasis supplied*)

Thus, a court cannot acquire jurisdiction over the subject matter of a case unless the docket fees are paid. It is clear that non-compliance with any of the requirements stated above warrants the dismissal of a petition.

While the Rules of Court must be faithfully followed, however, they may be relaxed for persuasive and weighty reasons to relieve a litigant from an injustice commensurate with his failure to comply with the prescribed procedures. In *Yambao v. Court of Appeals* (G.R. No. 140894, November 27, 2000), we ruled that the appellate court may extend the time for the payment of docket fees if appellant is able to show that there is a *justifiable reason* for the failure to pay the correct amount of docket fees within the prescribed period, like fraud, accident, mistake, excusable negligence, or a similar supervening casualty without fault on the part of the appellant. In *Villamor v. Court of Appeals* (G.R. No. 136858, July 21, 2004), we reinstated the appeal despite appellants failure to pay the docket fees after almost one (1) year from

the filing of the notice of appeal. We found that there was no deliberate refusal on his part to pay the required docket fee within the reglementary period.

(Sandoval-Gutierrez, J., Leopoldo V. Mendoza *v.* The Court of Appeals and Merchandising Inspection Company, Ltd., G.R. No. 148505, February 20, 2007)

Requisites of a motion to reopen a case.

A motion to reopen a case to receive further proofs was not in the old rules but it was nonetheless a recognized procedural recourse, deriving validity and acceptance from long, established usage. This lack of a specific provision covering motions to reopen was remedied by the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure which took effect on December 1, 2000. The April 1, 2003 order was issued under the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure. Section 24, Rule 119 and existing jurisprudence stress the following for reopening a case: (1) the reopening must be before the finality of a judgment of conviction; (2) the order is issued by the judge on his own initiative or upon motion; (3) the order is issued only after a hearing is conducted; (4) the order intends to prevent a miscarriage of justice; and (5) the presentation of additional and/or further evidence should be terminated within thirty days from the issuance of the order.

(Quisumbing, J., Rene Cabarles *v.* Hon. Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda and People of the Philippines, G.R. No. 161330, February 20, 2007)

Principle of Immutability of Final Judgment.

Under Section 2, Rule 36 of the Rules of Court, a judgment or final order becomes final and executory if no appeal or motion for new trial or reconsideration was filed within the period provided by the Rules.

Before a judgment becomes final and executory, that judgment may be amended. Upon finality of the judgment, the court loses its jurisdiction to amend, modify or alter the same. Except for correction of clerical errors or the making of *nunc pro tunc* entries which causes no prejudice to any

(Continued on page 18)

SUPREME COURT

RESOLUTION of the COURT *En Banc* dated February 20, 2007, on A.M. NO. 99-10-05-0

RE: PROCEDURE IN EXTRAJUDICIAL OR JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Revision of the Rules of Court, the Court **RESOLVED** to adopt the following additional rules with respect to Extrajudicial or Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgages:

- (1) No temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against the extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage shall be issued on the allegation that the loan secured by the mortgage has been paid or is not delinquent unless the application is verified and supported by evidence of payment.
- (2) No temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against the extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage shall be issued on the allegation that the interest on the loan is unconscionable, unless the debtor pays the mortgagee at least twelve percent per annum interest on the principal obligation as stated in the application for foreclosure sale, which shall be updated monthly while the case is pending.
- (3) Where a writ of preliminary injunction has been issued against a foreclosure of mortgage, the disposition of the case shall be speedily resolved. To this end, the court concerned shall submit to the Supreme Court, through the Office of the Court Administrator, quarterly reports on the progress of the cases involving ten million pesos and above.
- (4) All requirements and restrictions prescribed for the issuance of a temporary restraining order/writ of preliminary injunction, such as the posting of a bond, which shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt, and the time limitation for its effectivity, shall apply as well to a *status quo* order.

Upon effectivity of these additional rules, all rules, resolutions, orders and circulars of this Court, which are inconsistent therewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

These additional Rules in the Procedure in Extrajudicial or Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgages shall take effect on March 10, 2007 following their publication in a newspaper of general circulation not later than February 28, 2007.

February 20, 2007.

(*Sgd.*) PUNO, CJ, QUISUMBING, YNARES-SANTIAGO, SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ, CARPIO, AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ, CORONA, CARPIO MORALES, CALLEJO, SR. (*on leave*), AZCUNA (*on official leave*), TINGA, CHICO-NAZARIO, GARCIA, VELASCO, JR., NACHURA, JJ.



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 25-2007

RE: DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL COURTS TO HEAR, TRY AND DECIDE CASES INVOLVING KILLINGS OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND MEMBERS OF MEDIA

(1) Whereas, the preservation of the Rule of Law rests upon the Judiciary;

(2) Whereas, the extra-judicial killings of political activists and members of the media have been confirmed by the Report dated January 22, 2007 submitted by the Independent Commission to Address Media and Activists Killings, created by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through the issuance of Administrative Order No. 157;

(3) Whereas, in a letter addressed to the Chief Justice, dated January 31, 2007, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo viewed with "alarm and concern the unabated killings of political activists and members of media" and recommended the designation of Special Courts throughout the country that will hear and try these criminal cases;

(4) Whereas, the speedy and expeditious resolution of these criminal cases deserve the

(Continued on NEXT page)

A.O. NO. 25-2007 (continued)

highest concern by the judiciary, involving as they do, the most brazen violations of human rights;

Now, Therefore, pursuant to Section 23 of B.P. Blg. 129, in the interest of a speedy and efficient administration of justice and subject to the guidelines herein set forth, the following branches of the Regional Trial Courts are hereby designated to specially and preferentially hear, try and decide cases involving killings of political activists and members of the media:

NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 26, Manila

Judge Silvino T. Pampilo, Jr.

Br. 39, Manila

Judge Noli C. Diaz

Br. 50, Manila

Judge William Simon P. Peralta

Br. 95, Quezon City

Judge Henri Jean Paul B. Inting

Br. 97, Quezon City

Judge Bernelito R. Fernandez

Br. 219, Quezon City

Judge Bayani V. Vargas

Br. 114, Pasay City

Judge Edwin B. Ramizo

Br. 118, Pasay City

Judge Pedro B. Corales

Br. 129, Kalookan City

Judge Thelma Canlas T. Pe-Aguirre

Br. 131, Kalookan City

Judge Ma. Teresa Estepa de Guzman-Alvarez

Br. 133, Makati City

Judge Napoleon E. Inoturan

Br. 148, Makati City

Judge Oscar B. Pimentel

Br. 150, Makati City

Judge Elmo M. Alameda

Br. 157, Pasig City

Judge Esperanza F. Victorino

Br. 265, Pasig City

Judge Edwin A. Villasor

Br. 271, Taguig City¹

Judge Paz Esperanza M. Cortez

Br. 160, San Juan²

Judge Amelia Adao Fabros

Br. 73, Malabon City

Acting Presiding Judge Benjamin M. Aquino, Jr.

Br. 263, Marikina City

Judge David L. Miranda, Jr.

Br. 212, Mandaluyong City

Judge Rizalina Capco-Umali

Br. 260, Parañaque City

Judge Jaime M. Guray

Br. 255, Las Piñas City

Judge Raul B. Villanueva

Br. 204, Muntinlupa City

Judge Patria Manalastas de Leon

FIRST JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 5, Baguio City

Judge Antonio M. Esteves

Br. 62, La Trinidad, Benguet

Judge Danilo P. Camacho

Br. 14, Laoag City

Judge Francisco Roberto D. Quilala

Br. 28, San Fernando City, La Union

Judge Victor M. Vilorio

Br. 37, Lingayen, Pangasinan

Judge Emma P. Bauzon

Br. 41, Dagupan City

Judge Emma Manuel Torio

Br. 46, Urdaneta City

Judge Tita Rodriguez Villarin

SECOND JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 3, Tuguegarao City

Judge Jezarene C. Aquino

Br. 6, Aparri, Cagayan

Judge Rolando R. Velasco

Br. 17, Ilagan, Isabela

Judge Renato P. Pine

Br. 35, Santiago City

Judge Efren M. Cacatian

Br. 28, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

Judge Fernando F. Flor, Jr.

THIRD JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 3, Balanga City

Judge Remegio M. Escalada, Jr.

Br. 14, Malolos City

Judge Petrita B. Dime

Br. 24, Cabanatuan City

Judge Rodrigo S. Caspillo

Br. 33, Guimba, Nueva Ecija

Judge Ismael P. Casabar

Br. 35, Gapan City

Judge Dorentino Z. Floresta

1. Pasig RTC holding office and court sessions at Taguig City.

2. Pasig RTC holding office and court sessions at San Juan, M.M.

A.O. NO. 25-2007 (continued)

Br. 37, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija
Judge Nelson A. Tribiana
Br. 46, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Judge Joselito S. Salvador
Br. 51, Guagua, Pampanga
Judge Pamela Ann A. Maxino
Br. 61, Angeles City
Judge Bernardita G. Erum
Br. 65, Tarlac City
Judge Bitty G. Viliran
Br. 70, Iba, Zambales
Judge Clodualdo M. Monta
Br. 73, Olongapo City
Acting Presiding Judge Josefina D. Farrales

FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 3, Batangas City
Judge Ruben A. Galvez
Br. 10, Balayan, Batangas
Judge Cristino E. Judit
Br. 85, Lipa City
Acting Presiding Judge Florencio S. Arellano
Br. 88, Cavite City
Judge Agapito S. Lu
Br. 26, Imus, Cavite
Judge Fernando L. Felicen
Br. 28, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Judge Mary Ann Enrile Corpus-Mañalac
Br. 29, San Pablo City
Acting Presiding Judge Romulo S.G. Villanueva
Br. 35, Calamba City
Judge Romeo C. de Leon
Br. 51, Puerto Princesa City
Judge Jocelyn Sundiang-Dilig
Br. 56, Lucena City
Judge Norma Chionglo Sia
Br. 69, Binangonan, Rizal
Judge Narmo P. Noblejas
Br. 73, Antipolo City
Judge Ronaldo B. Martin
Br. 79, Morong, Rizal
Judge Candido O. delos Santos

FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 6, Legazpi City
Judge Vladimir B. Brusola
Br. 14, Ligao City
Judge Edwin R. Ma-alat
Br. 18, Tabaco City
Judge Mamerto M. Buban, Jr.

Br. 40, Daet, Camarines Norte
Judge Rolando M. Panganiban
Br. 25, Naga City
Judge Jaime E. Contreras
Br. 29, Libmanan, Camarines Sur
Judge Cecilia B. Soler
Br. 31, Pili, Camarines Sur
Judge Jose C. Sarcilla
Br. 36, Iriga City
Judge Milagros Gerona Quijano
Br. 45, Masbate City
Judge Manuel L. Sese
Br. 53, Sorsogon City
Judge Boanerges C. Candolea

SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 9, Kalibo, Aklan
Judge Dean R. Telan
Br. 11, San Jose, Antique
Judge Nery G. Duremdes
Br. 18, Roxas City
Judge Charlito F. Fantilanan
Br. 26, Iloilo City
Judge Antonio M. Natino
Br. 31, Iloilo City
Judge Rene S. Hortillo
Br. 38, Iloilo City
Judge Roger B. Patricio
Br. 48, Bacolod City
Judge Gorgonio J. Ybañez

SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 49, Tagbilaran City
Judge Fernando G. Fuentes III
Br. 7, Cebu City
Judge Simeon P. Dumdum, Jr.
Br. 21, Cebu City
Judge Eric Filamor Menchavez
Br. 53, Lapu-Lapu City
Judge Benedicto G. Cobarde
Br. 28, Mandaue City
Judge Marilyn Yap-Lagura
Br. 34, Dumaguete City
Judge Rosendo B. Bandal, Jr.
Br. 38, Dumaguete City
Judge Teresita Abarquez Galanida

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A.O. NO. 25-2007 (continued)

EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 9, Tacloban City

Judge Rogelio C. Sescon

Br. 29, Catbalogan, Samar

Judge Agerico A. Avila

NINTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 8, Dipolog City

Judge Porfirio E. Mah

Br. 16, Zamboanga City

Judge Jesus C. Carbon, Jr.

Br. 21, Pagadian City

Judge Rolando L. Goan

TENTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 5, Butuan City

Judge Augustus L. Calo

Br. 10, Malaybalay City

Judge Josefina Gentile S. Bacal

Br. 12, Oroquieta City

Judge Bernadette Paredes-Encinareal

Br. 18, Cagayan de Oro City

Judge Edgardo T. Lloren

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 1, Tagum City

Judge Danilo C. Belo

Br. 11, Davao City

Judge Virginia H. Europa

Br. 18, Digos City

Judge Albert S. Axalan

Br. 35, General Santos City

Judge Oscar P. Noel, Jr.

TWELFTH JUDICIAL REGION

Br. 3, Iligan City

Judge Albert B. Abragan

Br. 10, Marawi City

Acting Presiding Judge Moslemen T. Macarambon

In determining whether the crime is a "political killing," the following factors, among others, shall be considered: (1) political affiliation of the victim; (2) method of attack; and (3) reports that state agents are involved in the commission of the crime or have acquiesced in them.

For purposes of this Administrative Order, all single-sala courts are considered special courts for

the cases involving killings of political ideologists and members of media and for this reason shall give priority to these cases in their trial calendars. In stations where there are no Special Courts designated for the purpose, the branches where the said cases are raffled shall observe the herein guidelines.

The cases referred to herein shall undergo mandatory continuous trial and shall be terminated within sixty (60) days from commencement of trial. Judgment thereon shall be rendered within thirty (30) days from submission for decision unless a shorter period is provided by law or otherwise directed by this Court.

Where trial has already begun, the same shall continue to be heard by the respective branches to which they have been originally assigned. For purposes hereof, a criminal case is considered begun when the accused or any of them had already been arraigned. The periods mentioned in paragraph 2 above shall be followed.

The Special Courts here designated shall continue to be included in the raffle of cases, criminal and civil, provided that the Executive Judges of the RTCs concerned shall exclude the designated Special Courts from such raffle whenever in their judgment the caseload of these courts shall prevent them from conducting the continuous trial of the special cases herein specified.

The Branches thus designated as Special Courts shall continue to perform their functions as such within the purview of this Administrative Order even after the resignation, retirement, death, dismissal from the judicial service, transfer, detail or promotion of the incumbent judges appointed/ designated to preside over them. Their successors, whether permanent or temporary, shall act as Presiding Judges of these Special Courts unless the Supreme Court otherwise directs.

No postponement or continuance shall be allowed except for clearly meritorious reasons. Pleadings or motions found to have been filed for dilatory purposes shall constitute direct contempt and shall be punished accordingly.

In the event of inhibition of the judge of a designated Special Court, the following guidelines shall be observed: (a) where there is only one

A.O. NO. 25-2007 (continued)

Special Court in the station, the pairing system for multiple-branch stations subject of Circular No. 7 dated September 23, 1974, as amended, shall apply; (b) where there are two Special Courts in the station, the Executive Judge shall immediately assign the case by raffle to the other or another Special Court of the same nature. In case the Presiding Judge of the other Special Court is also disqualified or inhibits himself/herself, the case shall be forwarded to the pairing judge of the special court which originally handled the said case. If the pairing judge is also disqualified or inhibits himself/herself, the case shall be raffled to the other regular courts. At the next raffle, an additional case shall be assigned to the disqualified or inhibiting judge/s to replace the case so removed from his/her/their court; and (c) where a judge in a single-branch voluntary inhibits himself/herself, the Order of Inhibition shall be transmitted to the pairing judge who shall then hear and decide the case. The determination of the pairing judge shall be in accordance with Annex "A" of A.M. No. 03-8-02-SC dated January 27, 2004 (Guidelines on the Selection and Appointment of Executive Judges and Defining their Powers, Prerogatives and Duties).

A report on the status of these cases shall be attached to the Monthly Report of Cases submitted every 10th day of the succeeding month to the Statistical Reports Division, Court Management Office, Office of the Court Administrator. Failure to submit such report shall be a ground for withholding of the salaries and allowances of the judge/s and clerk/s of court/branch clerk/s of court, officer/s-in-charge concerned without prejudice to whatever administrative sanction the Supreme Court may impose on them.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.

March 1, 2007.

(Sgd.) REYNATO S. PUNO
Chief Justice

(Sgd.) LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice
Chairperson, Second Division

(Sgd.) CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice
Chairperson, Third Division

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 02-2007

TO: ALL JUDGES, OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TRIAL COURTS

SUBJECT: REITERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2-99 DATED JANUARY 15, 1999 ON "STRICT OBSERVANCE OF WORKING HOURS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR ABSENTEEISM AND TARDINESS"

In view of the complaints received by this Office, on the non-observance by some judges and court personnel of the prescribed office hours, Administrative Circular No. 2-99 dated January 15, 1999 with modifications is hereby reiterated for strict compliance.

By reason of the nature and functions of their office, the officials and employees of the Judiciary must be role models in the faithful observance of the constitutional canon that public office is a public trust. Inherent in this mandate is the observance of prescribed office hours and the efficient use of every moment thereof for public service, if only to recompense the Government, and ultimately, the people, who shoulder the cost of maintaining the Judiciary.

- I. Accordingly, all courts must observe the following office hours, without, however, prejudice to the approved flexi-time of certain personnel:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY

- A. The Executive Judges of the MeTCs and MTCCs with multiple branches shall assign by rotation the judges of the said branches to report for duty on Saturdays from eight o'clock in the morning to one o'clock in the afternoon, assisted by a skeletal force of the personnel, also on rotation, primarily to act on petitions for bail and other urgent matters.

(Continued on NEXT page)

A.C. NO. 02-2007 (continued)

The Executive Judges shall act on petitions for bail and other urgent matters on Saturday afternoons after one o'clock in the afternoon, Sundays, official holidays and special days. Should bail be granted and the applicant deposits cash as bail, the Executive Judge shall acknowledge in writing and issue a temporary receipt therefor and shall remit immediately the amount received to the Clerk of Court who shall issue appropriate official receipt therefore on the next succeeding business day.

Executive Judges of the RTCs shall assign by rotation the judges of the MTCs in multiple-branch stations and MCTCs within their respective territorial areas to report for duty on Saturdays from eight o'clock in the morning to one o'clock in the afternoon, assisted by a skeletal force of the personnel, also on rotation, primarily to act on petitions for bail and other urgent matters. (A.M. No. 03-8-02-SC, dated January 27, 2004)

- B. Court offices (*e.g.*, Office of the Clerk of Court) and units which deal directly with the public, such as receiving, process-serving and cashier's units, shall maintain a skeletal force on Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and from 12:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Those assigned to work on Saturdays shall be notified of their assignment at least three days in advance. An employee so assigned shall have a full day-off the following week on a day to be specified by the Justice/Judge concerned. (Manual for Clerk of Courts, Chapter II, Section A, 1.)
- II. Absenteeism and tardiness, even if such do not qualify as "habitual" or "frequent" under Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 04, Series of 1991, shall be dealt with severely, and any falsification of daily time records/bundy cards to cover-up for such absenteeism and/or tardiness shall constitute gross dishonesty or serious misconduct.
- III. Executive Judges shall strictly monitor compliance with this Circular by the judges and personnel under their administrative supervision.

IV. The Court Administrator through the Deputy Court Administrators and Assistant Court Administrators shall likewise monitor compliance by Executive Judges and Judges under their area of administrative supervision. For your guidance and strict compliance.

12 January 2007.

(Sgd.) REYNATO S. PUNO
Chief Justice

DOCTRINAL REMINDERS

REMEDIAL LAW (continued from page 12)

party, or where the judgment is void, the judgment can neither be amended nor altered after it has become final and executory. This is the principle of immutability of final judgment that is subject only to a few exceptions.

(Quisumbing, *J.*, Emerlito F. Aguila and Danilo D. Reyes, *v.* Carmen R. Baldovizo, Edgar R. Baldovizo, and Carmelo R. Baldovizo, G.R. No. 163186, February 28, 2007)

LEGAL ETHICS

Gross Ignorance of the Law, explained.

To constitute gross ignorance of the law, the acts complained of must not only be contrary to existing law and jurisprudence, but also motivated by bad faith, fraud, dishonesty, and corruption. Gross ignorance of the law is a serious accusation, and a person who accuses a judge of this very serious offense must be sure of the grounds for the accusation. Good faith and absence of malice, corrupt motives or improper considerations are sufficient defenses in which a judge charged with ignorance of the law can find refuge.

(Chico-Nazario, *J.*, Leonardo R. Ocampo *v.* Hon. Gina M. Bibat Palamos, A.M. No. MTJ-06-1655, March 6, 2007)



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 03-2007

TO : ALL JUSTICES, JUDGES AND COURT PERSONNEL**SUBJECT: FILIPINO VERSION OF THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR THE COURTS**

The Supreme Court *En Banc* in its Resolution dated 25 October 2006 in A.M. No. 06-10-04-SC, *Re: Filipino Version of the Ecumenical Prayer for the Courts*, Resolved to APPROVE the following Filipino version of the Ecumenical Prayer for the Courts, as submitted by Court of Appeals Justice Jose C. De La Rama (Ret), to wit:

**Panalangin Ekumenikal
Ukol sa mga Hukuman**

*Dios na Makapangyarihan sa lahat
Narito po kami sa Inyong Banal na Harapan
bilang Kayo ang aming Pinakamataas na Hukom
Buong pagpapakumbaba naming hinihiling sa Inyo
na kami ay pagpalain at bigyang-buhay
upang ang ano mang iisipin, sasabihin at gagawin
ay maging sang-ayon sa Inyong kalooban.
Paliwanagin mo po ang aming isipan
Palakasin ang aming espiritu
At puspusin ang aming mga puso ng pag-ibig bilang
makakapatid, ng talino at pang-unawa
Upang kami ay maging mabisang daluyan
Ng katotohanan, katarungan at kapayapaan
Sa among pagpapatuloy ng paglilitis sa araw na ito
Patnubayan mo po kami sa landas ng katwiran
Upang matupad at makita sa amin
Ang Inyong higit at
walang katulad na kaluwalhatian.
Amen."*

For your information and guidance.

January 19, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



OCA CIRCULAR NO. 05-2007

TO: ALL JUDGES AND CLERKS OF COURT OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS**SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF NOTICE TO THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**

It has come to the attention of the Court that in all cases of rehabilitation, insolvency, corporate dissolutions by judicial means and judicial settlements of estates of deceased persons, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is not notified of filing such petitions, thereby the interest of the government who has the first preference in the liquidations thereon are prejudiced.

Henceforth, you are hereby directed to notify the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue whenever a petition for the abovementioned cases is filed in your respective courts.

Strict compliance herewith is hereby enjoined.

January 24, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



OCA CIRCULAR NO. 11-2007

TO : ALL JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS**SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF TITLES TO LANDS COVERING TIMBERLAND OR FOREST LAND**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called the attention of this Office regarding the practice of some courts issuing decrees for the titling of lands covering Timberland or Forestland without the required Certification from the DENR.

In this connection, you are hereby directed that before acting on applications for the titling of lands, it is a condition that you must require the applicant to submit the required CERTIFICATION issued by

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 11-2007 (*continued*)

the **Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)** having jurisdiction over the land subject of the application for titling/ registration. This supporting document confirms the legal classification of the subject land per verification of available records on land classification and cadastral maps.

For strict compliance.

January 31, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



OCA CIRCULAR NO. 12-2007

TO : ALL JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, SANDIGANBAYAN AND THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS AND JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

SUBJECT: REQUIRING ALL JUSTICES AND JUDGES TO SUBMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The Supreme Court has recently embarked on the total computerization of the entire judiciary. It is the main core of the judiciary to improve and upgrade judicial facilities and tools as part of our judicial reform.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court envisions a paperless communication in all its judicial transactions and to effect this idea this Court mandates all Judges and Justices of the Judiciary to submit their respective e-mail addresses. This is for the purpose of an easy access among each other and to have a dynamic and more effectual judicial reform. In the absence of any e-mail address, everyone is enjoined to create one or may submit any e-mail address of any member of your family wherein you can be reached immediately. You may submit your e-mail addresses to the Office of the Court Administrator or you may post the same to the official e-mail account of the Supreme Court at courtwatch@supremecourt.gov.ph.

February 8, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 15-2007

TO : ALL LOWER COURT OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: RENAMING OF THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR THE LOWER COURTS (ESPC-LC) TO THE PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE LOWER COURTS (PDC-LC)

Pursuant to the Resolution dated 10 October 2006 of the Court *En Banc* in A.M. No. 06-04-09-SC (Re: Career Development and Management Plan for the Judiciary), the Educational Support Program Committee for the Lower Courts (ESPC-LC) has been renamed Personnel Development Committee for the Lower Courts (PDC-LC) and its area of responsibility has been expanded. The Committee is composed of the following:

1. *Chairperson:* ACA Antonio H. Dujua
2. *Vice Chairperson:* Atty. Ciela Marie Uy-Ungson
3. *Members:* Atty. Rene B. Enciso
Ms. Florence J. Bautista
Ms. Regina J. Sardea¹
4. *Secretariat:*
Ms. Maria Rosario G. Gaticales
Secretary-Recorder
Ms. Rhea S. Natulan
Assistant Secretary-Recorder
Mr. Allan D. Dasal
Aide

The PDC-LC now evaluates all applications of officials and personnel of the lower courts for availment of Human Resource Development Programs (scholarships, study grants, study leaves, training, seminars, workshops, conferences and conventions). The PDC-LC likewise monitors compliance by grantees with their obligations under the services contracts.

For you information and guidance.

February 16, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator

1. Replaced by Atty. Fe Corcelles-Aguila, Judicial Supervisor assigned to the Office of the Court Administrator by virtue of OCA Circular No. 15A-2007 dated March 5, 2007.

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 16-2007**TO: ALL CLERKS OF COURT OF THE CONCERNED FIRST LEVEL COURTS****SUBJECT: DESIGNATION AS MUNICIPAL COURT INFORMATION OFFICERS FOR THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE POOR PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the *Access to Justice for the Poor Project* is an initiative under the Action Program for Judicial Reform funded by the European Commission, the goal of which is to increase access to justice by the poor and vulnerable groups, especially women and children. To achieve this goal, the project aims to (1) enhance the ability of the poor and vulnerable groups (poor women and children in particular) to pursue justice through their increased knowledge about their basic rights and the justice system and (2) to strengthen the justice system to make it more accessible to poor and vulnerable groups;

WHEREAS, the Project shared endeavor among the following partner agencies: the Supreme Court; Department of Justice; the Department of the Interior and Local Government; Alternative Law Groups, Inc.; and the Department of Social Welfare and Development as the Executing Agency;

WHEREAS, its is imperative that the Project be fully supported to ensure its success and attainment of objectives;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Court Information Officers (MCIOs) under Component 1 of the Project are tasked to:

- (1) Actively participate in capacity-building training;
- (2) Disseminate information to facilitate access to justice by the poor and vulnerable groups especially women and children in accordance with these Guidelines; and
- (3) Submit quarterly progress report on the performance of their duties within ten (10) days of the first month of the succeeding quarter to the Court Management Office, Office of the Court Administrator;

WHEREAS, the MCIOs shall be guided by the Information, Education, Communication (IEC) Guidelines for Municipal Court Information Officers in the performance of their duties as MCIOs for the project.

WHEREAS, the Clerks of Court of the First Level Courts of the following project areas: Oriental Mindoro, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Sultan Kudarat, and Lanao del Norte are deemed the Project's MCIOs pursuant to their mandated duty to provide information services under the Revised Manual for Clerks of Court;

NOW THEREFOR, the Clerks of Court in the following Project sites are hereby designated as MCIOs:

- A. Capiz
 1. President Roxas-Pilar MCTC
 2. Pontevedra-Panay MCTC
 3. Dao-Ivisan MCTC
 4. Dumarao-Cuartero MCTC
 5. Sigma-Sapian-Jamindan MCTC
- B. Camarines Sur
 1. Magarao-Canaman MCTC
 2. Tigao-Sagnay MCTC
- C. Oriental Mindoro
 1. San Teodoro-Baco-Puerto Galera MCTC
 2. Bansud-Gloria MCTC
- D. Sultan Kudarat
 1. Bagumbayan-Esperanza MCTC
 2. Tacurong Shari'a Circuit Court
 3. Palimbang Shari'a Circuit Court
- E. Lanao del Norte
 1. Baloi-Pantar-Pantao Ragat MCTC
 2. Linamon-Matungao-Togoloan MCTC
 3. Kauswagan-Poona-Piagapo MCTC
 4. Kolambugan-Tangcal MCTC
 5. Lala-Salvador MCTC

February 21, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



OCA CIRCULAR NO. 19-2007

TO: EXECUTIVE/PRESIDING JUDGES AND CLERKS OF COURTS/ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, SHARI'A DISTRICT COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS AND SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNMENT / AGENCY CHECKS AS PAYMENTS OF DOCKET / FILING FEES

Pursuant to the guidelines issued by the Court in Administrative Circular No. 35-2004 dated August 14, 2004, that docket filing fees in conformity with Rule 141 of the Rules of Court must be paid in the form of:

1. Cash
2. Cashier's Check
3. Manager's Check

Thus, government offices and other government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) are now requesting exemption from the said rule because there are COC's/OIC's who refuse to accept the agency checks issued by the concerned offices for payment of filing fees.

You are therefore advised that GOCCs and its instrumentalities are exempt from the said requirements and they can pay thru check provided however that the check must be signed by the duly authorized signatories of the concerned agencies.

The Clerks of Court/Accountable Officers must ensure that the following are present otherwise the same must be dishonored:

1. date check issued
2. complete signatories of the check
3. amount in words should tally with the amount in figures

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.

February 21, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 25-2007

TO: ALL JUDGES AND CLERKS OF COURTS OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS

SUBJECT: PROCEDURE IN EXTRAJUDICIAL OR JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES

The Supreme Court *En Banc*, acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Revision of the Rules of Court, in its Resolution dated February 20, 2007 in A.M. No. 99-10-05-O Resolved to adopt the following additional rules with respect to Extrajudicial or Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgages:

- (1) No temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against the extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage shall be issued on the allegation that the loan secured by the mortgage has been paid or is not delinquent unless the application is verified and supported by evidence of payment.
- (2) No temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against the extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage shall be issued on the allegation that the interest on the loan is unconscionable, unless the debtor pays the mortgagee at least twelve percent per annum interest on the principal obligation as stated in the application for foreclosure sale, which shall be updated monthly while the case is pending.
- (3) Where a Writ of preliminary injunction has been issued against a foreclosure of mortgage, the disposition of the case shall be speedily resolved. To this end, the court concerned shall submit to the Supreme Court, through the Office of the Court Administrator, quarterly reports on the progress of the cases involving ten million pesos and above.
- (4) All requirements and restrictions prescribed for the issuance of a temporary restraining order/writ of preliminary injunction, such as the posting of a bond,

which shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt, and the time limitation for its effectivity, shall apply as well to a *status quo* order.

Upon effectivity of these additional rules, all rules resolutions, orders and circulars of this Court, which are inconsistent therewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

These additional Rules in the Procedure in Extrajudicial or Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgages shall take effect on March 10, 2007 following their publication in a newspaper of general circulation not later than February 28, 2007.

The above resolution was published in the February 27, 2007 issue of the Manila Bulletin.

For your information and guidance.

March 5, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



OCA CIRCULAR NO. 27-2007

**TO: ALL EXECUTIVE JUDGES AND CLERKS
OF COURT OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURTS**

**SUBJECT: CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY FOR
A NOTARIAL ACT**

You are hereby reminded of the Resolution of the Court *En Banc* dated July 6, 2004 in A.M. No. 02-8-13-SC otherwise known as the "2004 Rules on Notarial Practice" which became effective on August 1, 2004.

Section 1 of Rule IX thereof provides that a certificate of authority evidencing the authenticity of the official seal and signature of a notary public shall be issued by the Executive Judge upon request in substantially the following form:

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY FOR A
NOTARIAL ACT**

I, (name, title, jurisdiction of the Executive Judge), certify that (name of notary public), the person named in the seal and signature on the attached document, is a Notary Public in and for the (City/Municipality/Province) of the Republic of the Philippines and authorized to act as such at the time of the document's notarization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed below my signature and seal of this office this (date) day of (month) (year)

(official signature)

(seal of Executive Judge)

You are therefore enjoined to strictly observe the above rule. The practice of Clerks of Court signing the above mentioned certificate should be stopped immediately until further orders from this Court.

March 7, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator



3rd Floor, Supreme Court Centennial Building
Padre Faura St. cor. Taft Ave., Manila, Philippines
1000

2006 Upcoming PHILJA Events

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Seminars / Activities</i> | <i>Venue</i> |
|--------------|--|---|
| April 16-18 | Seminar-Workshop on IT Project Management for Sandiganbayan Employees | Sulo Hotel, Quezon City |
| Apr 18-20 | Convention and Seminar of the Sheriffs' Confederation of the Philippines | Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iloilo City |
| Apr 19 | Roundtable Discussion on Law and Economics | Baguio City |
| Apr 23-26 | Strengthening the Implementation of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines | Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City |
| Apr 25-27 | 6 th Convention and Seminar of the Process Servers Association of the Philippines | Albay Astrodome, Legaspi City |
| Apr 25-27 | 1 st Seminar-Workshop on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Justice for Single-Sala Courts (Advanced Level) | CSB Hotel, Manila |
| Apr 26-28 | Seminar-Workshop for Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcers on Drugs Law | Tagaytay Country Hotel, Tagaytay City |
| Apr 30 | Seminar on Election Laws for Judges and Clerks of Court | Skyrise Hotel, Baguio City |
| Apr 30-May 9 | 46 th Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Newly Appointed Judges | PHILJA Development Center, Tagaytay City |
| May 7-8 | Seminar-Workshop for Judges on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (Batch 1) | Manila Pavilion Hotel, Ermita, Manila |
| May 10-11 | Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution | PHILJA Development Center, Tagaytay City |

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