



The BAR

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The Official Newsletter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines

PART I



IBP AT 50:

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF TOUCHING LIVES

AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Hosted by the IBP Southern Luzon Region at the Podium Hall in Mandaluyong City on October 27, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) successfully conducted the second leg of the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA) rollout, a key component of the Supreme Court's Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022–2027 (SPJI).



The CPRA Rollout, part of the IBP's support for the Supreme Court's information campaign, featured discussions by deputy directors and commissioners of the IBP Commission for Bar Discipline on the new provisions of the CPRA, including notarial practice. With the first leg held in Cotabato last September, and 15 more legs planned until 2025, the IBP encourages all lawyers to familiarize themselves with the updated code, emphasizing its role in elevating the standards of the legal profession. The third leg is scheduled for December 2023 in Cebu.



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123 delegates from different Chapters across the Philippines gathered for the 26th Hall of Delegates Convention at The Oriental Leyte in Palo. A vibrant assembly fostering unity and collaboration.



IBP LEYTE HOSTS 26TH HALL OF DELEGATES CONVENTION

PRESIDENT PIDO DELIVERS STATE OF THE BAR ADDRESS IN HOD SPEECH

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) held the 26th House of Delegates Convention in the Municipality of Palo, Leyte from November 24 to 25, 2023. The two-day event kicked off with a dinner at The Oriental Leyte Hotel, which played host to one hundred twenty-three (123) IBP delegates from all over the country.

President Antonio C. Pido delivered his State of the Bar address where he highlighted the achievements of the IBP and introduced future initiatives of the organization. In his address, President Pido underscored the IBP's steadfast commitment to protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) and raised concerns about the state of jail congestion in the Philippines.

The IBP chapters present were urged to intensify their efforts to expedite the legal processes for PDLs.

Recognizing the importance of legal aid and IBP members' welfare, Pres. Pido announced the IBP Board's approval of the standardization of legal aid volunteers' honorarium at One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00), and the extension of healthcare coverage to all IBP chapter officers.



Gracing the event were Leyte Governor Carlos Jericho L. Petilla and Palo Mayor Remedios L. Petilla. The opening remarks was delivered by IBP Leyte Chapter President Sharilee Angela G. Mauro.

Also providing their valuable perspectives were National Director for Bar Discipline Avelino V. Sales Jr. and National Director on Peer Assistance Job Florante L. Castillo. Director Sales delved into the significance of maintaining ethical standards in the legal profession, addressing challenges and outlining measures to uphold integrity. Meanwhile, Director Castillo highlighted the crucial role of peer assistance in supporting lawyers facing personal or professional challenges, emphasizing the IBP's initiatives to enhance mental health support within the legal community.

As the IBP commemorates its 50th Anniversary, we are all reminded to contribute towards an IBP that is dedicated to justice and legal excellence.





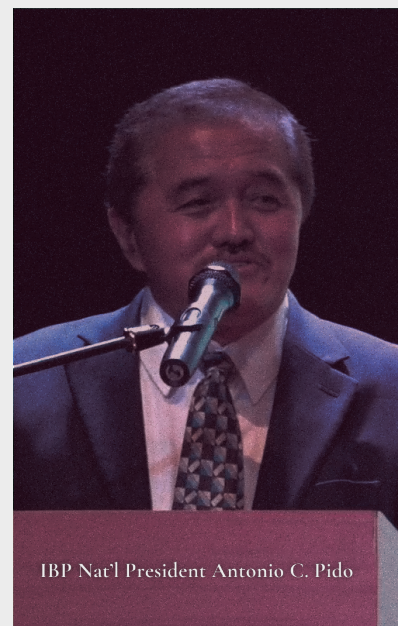
Serve the Country
Hail the IBP



**THE ORIENTAL
PALO, LEYTE**



IBP AND JFBA COLLABORATE IN 2023 PHILIPPINES-JAPAN LAW CONFERENCE



ON MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION AND INHERITANCE

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), the Japan Federation of Bar Association (JFBA), and the UP College of Law ASEAN Law Program organized the 2023 Philippines-Japan Law Conference to deep dive into Philippines and Japan laws on marriage dissolution and inheritance. The conference was conducted on November 17, 2023, at the University of the Philippines College of Law, Bonifacio Global City Campus.

In the opening panel, Atty. Seiji Yamamura discussed Japanese divorce law while Atty. Takayuki Obata delved into the details of Japanese divorce by agreement procedures.



Keynote Speaker Associate Justice Angelene Mary W. Quimpo-Sale shared insights on Philippine law, focusing on the procedural intricacies involved in the recognition of Japanese divorces.

Prof. Elizabeth Aguilin-Pangalangan navigated through the legal implications of foreign divorces in the Philippines, while UP ASEAN Law Director Andre C. Palacios provided a comprehensive discussion of Philippine judicial notice of foreign laws in relation to marriage and divorce.



For the afternoon session, the audience was treated to an in-depth analysis of inheritance laws spearheaded by Professor Marie Cecile Roque-Quintos, Atty. Keiko Sugawa, and Atty. Kaori Okubo.



This timely and opportune event aimed to provide context to Family Law practitioners, and to harmonize the differing legal frameworks of the Philippines and Japan. As legal minds from both nations shared their expertise, the conference marked a pivotal moment in promoting legal cooperation and understanding between the lawyers of the two countries.





The UP Institute for the Administration of Justice (UP IAJ) organized a forum to take a closer look into a study by Dr. Björn Dressel and Cristina Regina Bonoan, entitled "Justices and Political Loyalties: An Empirical Investigation of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, 1987–2020." Held at the UP College of Law on October 25, 2023, the forum featured intellectual heavyweights as panelists, namely, former International Criminal Court Judge Raul C. Pangalangan, UP School of Economics Professor Emeritus Solita C. Monsod, Professor Dante B. Gatmaytan, and Professor Gwen Grecia-De Vera.

The study aimed to unravel the determinants of Supreme Court behavior within the broader democratic landscape of the Philippines.

UP LAW FORUM DELVES INTO SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL ALLEGIANCES



Judge Raul C. Pangalangan

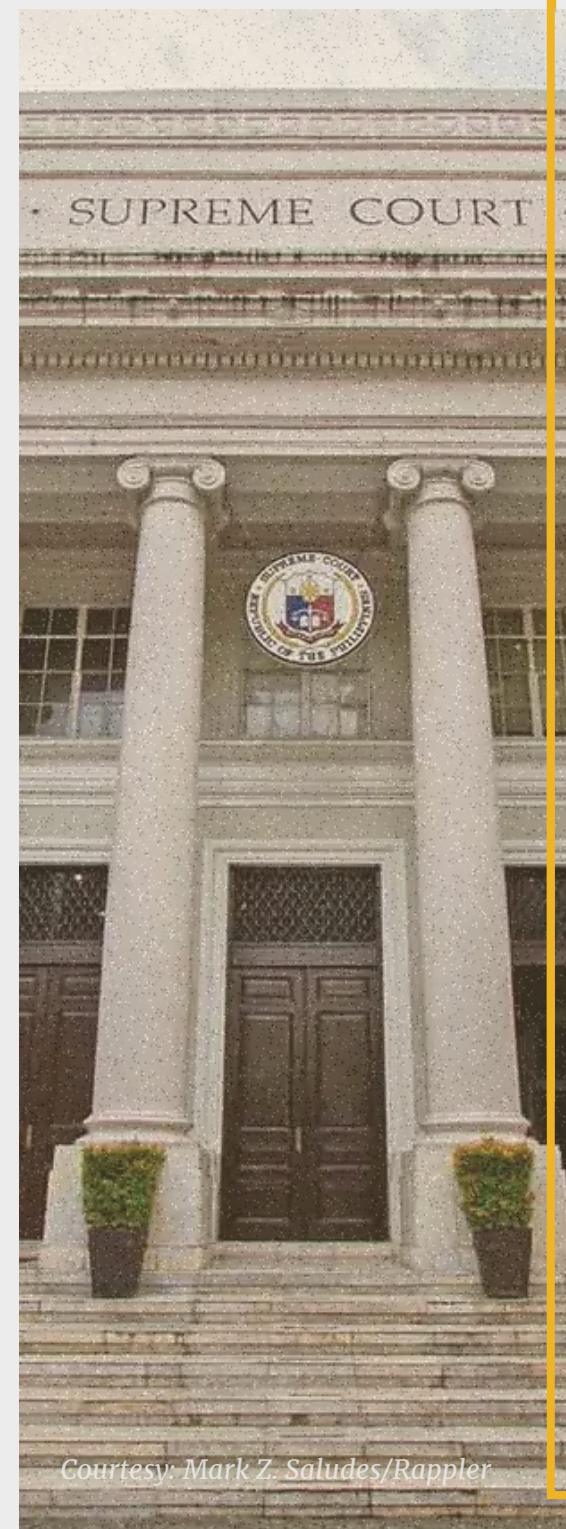
Notably, Atty. Bonoan clarified that the study was descriptive and predictive, emphasizing correlation rather than causation.

Dr. Dressel acknowledged the Judicial Bar and Council's efforts to enhance transparency in the appointment process, clarifying that the study does not conclude corruption but identifies a dynamic tension causing external pressure on justices. In the same vein, Atty. Bonoan stressed that the study emphasized correlation, rather than causation. The forum provided a platform for insightful discussions which shed light on the complexities of judicial behavior and its implications on the Philippine justice system.

Courtesy: UP College of Law

FEATURED RESOLUTION

SUPREME COURT APPROVES RULES ON ANTI-TERRORISM



Courtesy: Mark Z. Saludes/Rappler

In an En Banc Resolution dated December 5, 2023, the Supreme Court approved A.M. No. 22-02-19-SC or the "Rules on the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 and Related Laws" (the Rules). The *ad hoc* Committee tasked with drafting the Rules was led by the venerable Chief Justice (Ret.) Reynato S. Puno and Associate Justice Rosmari D. Carandang.

The Rules set the procedure for issuing an Order of Proscription declaring as terrorist any group of persons, organization or association that commits acts of terrorism defined under the law.

Under the Rules, law enforcement agents or military personnel are required to secure a written Authorization for Surveillance from the Court of Appeals before they can secretly wiretap, overhear, listen, intercept, screen, read, surveil, record or collect any private communications, conversation, discussion, data or information between subjects or targets of Surveillance Orders.

Notably, the Rules expressly prohibit written orders for the surveillance of communications between: a) lawyers and clients; b) doctors and patients; c) journalists and their sources; and d) confidential business correspondence.

The Rules shall take effect on January 15, 2024. Its full text may be accessed at: <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/rules-on-the-anti-terrorism-act-of-2020-and-related-laws/>.



IBP RIZAL-RSM BLOCK SCREENING

A CINEMATIC INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT JAIL DECONGESTION

The IBP – Rizal, San Juan Mandaluyong (IBP-RSM) successfully hosted a block screening at Robinson's Magnolia VIP Cinemas of "The Hunger Games: A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," last November 19, 2023. The event solidified the chapter's commitment to addressing jail congestion and supporting the IBP's Ligaya sa Laya PDL Program's AsiKASO Project, as well as facilitating the immediate release of overstaying Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL).

Following the positive response from the first block screening in August, which showcased

Courtesy: IBP Rizal-RSM

"Blue Beetle," the IBP Rizal RSM Chapter expresses sincere gratitude to attendees and ticket buyers for their support.

Despite commendable efforts by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in reducing congestion rates, recent findings from the Commission on Audit (COA) reveal that a substantial number of jails still face overcrowding.

In 2022, 67% of the country's jails were congested, with occupancy rates reaching a staggering 2,739%. Although the BJMP has made progress, reducing congestion rates by 358%, as of July 15, 2023, 329 out of 479 jail facilities

As the IBP remains at the forefront of jail decongestion efforts, each lawyer is called to play a noble role in effecting positive societal change.

THE HUNGER GAMES: A BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES

Years before he becomes the tyrannical president of Panem, 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow remains the last hope for his fading lineage. With the 10th annual Hunger Games fast approaching, the young Snow becomes alarmed when he's assigned to mentor Lucy Gray Baird from District 12. Uniting their instincts for showmanship and political savvy, they race against time to ultimately reveal who's a songbird and who's a snake.

Courtesy: Lionsgate Films



THE BAR

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LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Serve the
Country



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