



# PHILJA E-Alerts

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## **Judges: Gross ignorance of the law.**

Section 4 of A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC as amended provides that the petition for the declaration of nullity of a void marriage shall be filed in the Family Court of the province or city where the petitioner or the respondent has been residing for at least six months prior to the date of the filing, or in case of a non-resident respondent where he may be found in the Philippines, at the election of the petitioner.

The OCA Investigation Report is replete with findings that respondent judge deliberately disregarded the foregoing rule.

For gross ignorance of the law, respondent judge was dismissed from the service with forfeiture of all retirement benefits and with prejudice to re-employment in the government service including GOCCs. **(A.M. No. RTJ-12-2325, April 14, 2015)**

## **Notary Public — Violation of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice.**

Section 1(a), Rule VI of the Notarial Practice Rules provides that “a notary public shall keep, maintain and provide for lawful inspection as provided in these Rules, a **chronological official notarial register of notarial acts** consisting of a permanently bound book with numbered pages.” The same section further provides that “a notary public shall keep **only one active notarial register at any given time.**”

Respondent notary public violated said rule by simultaneously keeping several active notarial registers.

Entries in a notarial register need to be in chronological sequence in order to address and prevent the rampant practice of leaving blank spaces in the notarial register to allow the antedating of notarization.

For violation of the Rules on Notarial Practice, among others, respondent was declared disqualified from being commissioned as notary public for a period of two (2) years. He was also suspended for one (1) year from the practice of law. **(A.C. No. 10303, April 22, 2015)**