



PHILJA Bulletin



July-September 2000

Volume II, Issue 7

From the Chancellor's Desk *Ben*

How does a judicial education institution establish a helping presence in every court of the land? We, at PHILJA, were not content at confining instruction and continuing formation only to our classrooms. Try as we might, however, to increase the number of programs – which are already considerable – and to maintain a brisk tempo, each judge's encounter with the Academy would be few and far between were we to be reached only at our Manila office and Tagaytay Campus.

The *PHILJA Bulletin* has enabled us to be by the side of each judge in each courtroom all over the country. I have personally endeavored to ask judges on various occasions what they thought of the *Bulletin*. The response and reception have been gratifying. We are happy that the *Bulletin* has served its purpose of alerting judges – and key court officials – to the developments in jurisprudence, as well as to orders, circulars and memoranda of the High Court of which they should be cognizant.

Information is the prime commodity in the new millennium. Technological developments attest to this. A good number of the latest inventions is in the area of communication and information technology – “informatics” it is sometimes called. The communications industry has spawned different, often astounding, media of communication. Recently, I was initiated into “chatting,” and it has never ceased to amaze me how one can “converse” – digitally of course – with someone even halfway around the globe!

Information then is primarily what the *PHILJA Bulletin* serves. I, therefore, ask our judges to optimize this resource now available to them. One way to do this is by letting us, at PHILJA, know how the *Bulletin* can even be more helpful to you. It has been well conceptualized, but it can still be improved by the suggestions you make, since you are its end-users.

Being informed, however, is merely one of the demands on you. Being committed is yet a more serious expectation. But it is part and parcel of commitment for you to be alert to every new development that makes the administration of justice more efficient, credible and competent. It is this alertness, I hope, that will keep you interested in the *PHILJA Bulletin*.

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Excellence in the Judiciary

BASIC MEDIATION WORKSHOPS HELD BY PHILJA

The Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), in cooperation with the Singapore Mediation Center, Asia Foundation, Phil-Export TAPS, Inc., Philippine Bar Association, Ms. Annabelle Abaya, Consultant/Coordinator, and Dean Eduardo De Los Angeles, conducted a one-day Pre-Workshop Training on July 6, 2000, and a Basic Mediation Workshop on July 10-14, 2000 at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati City.

The Pre-Workshop Training on Mediation, conducted by Ms. Abaya and Dean De Los Angeles, emphasized the need for the practice of mediation in our courts that are overburdened with cases. As of now, it will be applied to family dispute cases, collection cases, claims for civil damages, and disputes involving residential or landlord-tenant relationships.

During the Basic Mediation Workshop held on July 10 to 14, the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) sent Ms. Teh Hwee Hwee, District Judge and SMC Director; Mr. Lim Teong Jin, George, President of the Law Society of Singapore; and Mr. Loong Seng Onn, SMC Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Singapore Academy of Law, who served as lecturers and facilitators.

A total number of sixty-nine (69) participants from various professions - Family Court presiding judges, state prosecutors, clerks of court, court personnel, legal researchers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, pastors, school principals, law professors and government employees - from PHILJA, the Philippine Bar Association, U.P. College of Law, the Ateneo College of Law, pilot courts in Mandaluyong and Valenzuela, and designated family courts in Makati (Branches 140 and 144), Manila (Branches 29 and 48), Quezon City (Branches 94, 106 and 107), and Pasay City (Br.109) - attended the Basic Mediation Workshop.

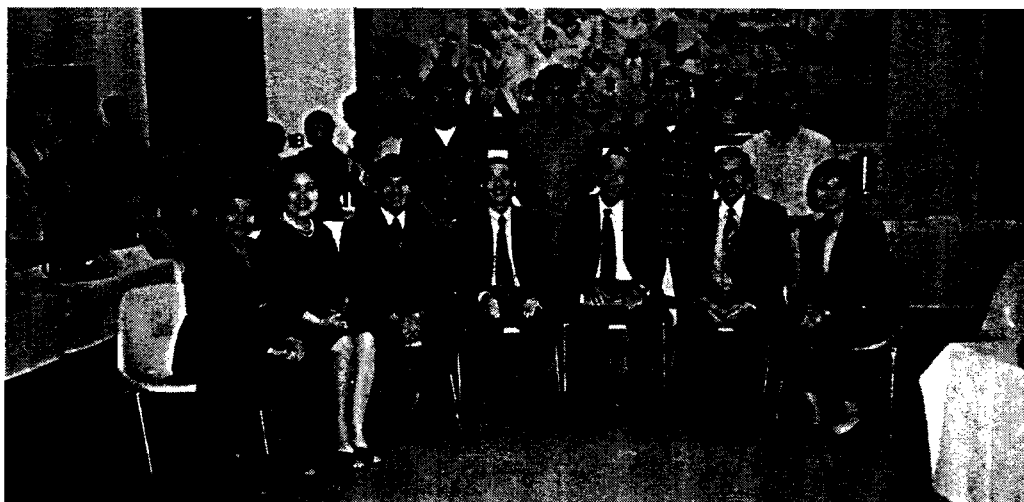
Ms. Teh, Mr. Lim, and Mr. Loong guided the participants in differentiating interest-based mediation from negotiation, arbitration, and litigation. In mediation, a neutral third party, the mediator, facilitates negotiations between disputants. These negotiations are interest-based, that is, the focus is neither on who is right or wrong nor on who has a stronger or weaker case in court, but on how both their needs can be met.

The participants were given an invaluable guide for mediation: the seven elements of interest-based resolution which are interests or the needs and concerns of the parties; options or ways to resolve the issues/concerns; criteria or the use of objective standards by which the parties may measure the fairness of an option; alternatives in case the parties do not wish to settle; communication for understanding to occur between parties; the element of relationship which must be separated from the substantive issues so that trust may occur in place of suspicion between the two parties; and commitment to the compromised agreement that also minimizes the possibility of future disputes.

Participants in the workshop applied the knowledge and skills they had learned during a one-month mediation internship program held in August at the Regional Trial Courts of Mandaluyong City, Quezon City (Br. 107), and Pasay City (Br. 109).

There will be another Basic Mediation Workshop and Internship Series for New Mediators which will be held in Manila (November and December, 2000), Cebu (February, 2001), and Davao (March, 2001). Settlement Week when Courts nationwide will be directed by the Supreme Court to inventory cases that are ideal for mediation is tentatively scheduled in April, 2001.

PHILJA and the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) join forces in the Basic Mediation Workshop. Seated from left are: Dr. Purificacion V. Quisumbing, Ms. Annabelle Abaya, Atty. Loong Seng Onn, Atty. Lim Teong Jin, Justice Antonio M. Martinez, Dean Eduardo Delos Angeles and Judge Teh Hwee Hwee.



SC LAUNCHES CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On June 11, 2000, the Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., begun the countdown on its 100th anniversary to be celebrated on June 11, 2001. This period was declared the "Centenary of the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines" by President Joseph Ejercito Estrada (Proclamation No. 322). The Supreme Court was established on June 11, 1901 (Act No. 136, Philippine Commission).

The Centenary Celebrations, with the theme, "*Katarungan at Bayan Magpakailanman*," aim to enhance the Filipino people's awareness and understanding of the workings of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court's tremendous responsibility as the court of last resort.

Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban presides as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Centenary Celebrations, with Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing as Vice Chairman. Former DCA Reynaldo L. Suarez is designated as the Committee's Executive Officer. Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. leads the Executive Committee's Council of Advisers, whose members are Senior Associate Justice Josue N. Bellosillo and Associate Justices Jose A. R. Melo, Reynato S. Puno and Jose C. Vitug.

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 322

DECLARING THE PERIOD 11 JUNE 2000 TO 11 JUNE 2001 AS THE
CENTENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines will be celebrating its 100th year on 11 June 2001 having been established on 11 June 1901 by Act No. 136 of the Philippine Commission;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has not been spared, during some crucial periods in its history, from assaults against its judicial independence and integrity but has survived them with becoming dignity consistent with its role as the ultimate protector of the people's rights;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, throughout its growth and development amidst political and social changes over the years, has earned the trust, confidence and respect of the Filipino people truly as the "last bulwark of democracy;"

WHEREAS, it is fitting to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines by dedicating a period to enhance the people's awareness and understanding of its tremendous responsibility as the court of last resort as well as of the history and workings of the Judiciary;

WHEREAS, to ensure the successful celebration of the Supreme Court Centenary, there is a need to complement the efforts of the Supreme Court and its organizing and implementing committees by urging the public and private sectors to conduct and/or participate actively in programs and activities to be held or carried out for the purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the period from 11 June 2000 to 11 June 2001 as the CENTENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT in commemoration of its 100th year of existence.

All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, local government units and government-owned and controlled corporations, the public at large, as well as the private sector are hereby urged to conduct, participate in and actively support activities, programs and projects for the CENTENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT.

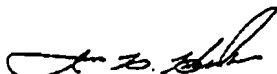
For the above purpose, all government offices and units concerned may, subject to applicable budgetary and auditing laws and rules, allocate a reasonable amount from their respective funds to defray the expenses necessary or incidental to their participation in the CENTENARY celebration.

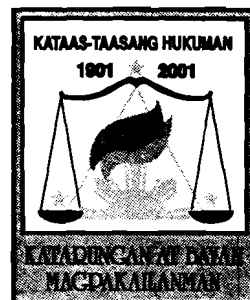
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines be affixed.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 6th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand.

By the President


RONALDO B. ZAMORA
Executive Secretary





Major activities for the Celebrations include the monthly Centenary Lecture Series; an essay contest (theme: "*The Supreme Court as the Bulwark of Freedom*"); oratorical contests (theme: "*The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democratic Society*"); journalism awards for outstanding legal articles; publication of a history book on the Supreme Court; special Centennial Awards for judicial excellence; the computerization of all Philippine courts; and the implementation of the Mass Housing Program for judicial employees.

The Centenary celebrations will culminate in the Grand Centennial Dinner on June 11, 2001, to be hosted by the Supreme Court. Distinguished guests of the Court at the Grand Dinner will include the President of the Philippines, the Senate President, and House Speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CENTENARY LECTURE SERIES JULY – SEPTEMBER 2000

The Centenary Lecture Series is part of the Centenary Celebrations of the Supreme Court of the Philippines which will commemorate its 100th anniversary on June 11, 2001. The year-long commemorative program, with the theme, "*Katarungan at Bayan Magpakailanman*," was launched last June 11, 2000. Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. leads the Council of Advisers of the Executive Committee for the Centenary Celebrations, with Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban as Chairman and Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing as Vice-Chairman.

The Centenary Lecture Series covers a span of twelve months from July 11, 2000 to June 5, 2001 with one lecture scheduled every month. Filipino and foreign eminent jurists and legal luminaries have been invited to deliver lectures on core issues which have shaped and will continue to influence the Philippine judiciary as well as law and jurisprudence.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE NARVASA GIVES 1ST CENTENARY LECTURE

Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa (Ret.), the twentieth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines (1991-1998), delivered the First Centenary Lecture on July 11, 2000 at the Supreme Court Session Hall, Supreme Court, Manila.

Organized by PHILJA and with the Ateneo Law School and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines as co-sponsors, more than 350 guests attended Chief Justice Narvasa's lecture on "*The Supreme Court in Philippine History and Development*."

Adopting an expository, historical and factual approach, he gave the highlights of the terms of office of the twenty-one (21) Chief Justices that the Supreme Court has had so far, from Cayetano Arellano to incumbent Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

The First Centenary Lecture also featured prominent judicial leaders such as Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. who gave the Closing Remarks; Madame Justice Ameurфина A. Melencio Herrera, Chancellor of the Philippine Judicial Academy, who delivered the Opening Remarks; Senior Associate Justice Josue N. Bellosillo who introduced CJ Narvasa; and Justice Artemio V. Panganiban who graced the program as the Master of Ceremonies.



Former Chief Justice Narvasa, twentieth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the First Centenary Lecturer, delivers "The Supreme Court in Philippine History and Development" to more than 350 guests at the Supreme Court Session Hall.



Professor Mastura speaks on "Shari'a Law and the Philippine Legal System" as the Second Centenary Lecturer.

(Continued on next page)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CENTENARY LECTURE*(Continued from previous page)***PROFESSOR MASTURA DELIVERS 2ND CENTENARY LECTURE**

The Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), in cooperation with the Philippine Constitution Association (PHILCONSA), Lyceum of the Philippines College of Law, and the University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies, held the Second Centenary Lecture, "*Shari'a Law and the Philippine Legal System*," by Professor Michael O. Mastura on September 12, 2000, 2.00 p.m., at the Supreme Court Session Hall, Supreme Court, Manila.

In his lecture, Professor Mastura traced the beginnings of Muslim legal institutions and the historical development of the *agama* or religious judicature which constitutes the Moro indigenous legal system; analyzed the relationship between the reformist aims of the Muslim Code and the adjudication process; and examined the Shari'a courts in the light of legal complexities with which Muslim law has been administered in the country.

Professor Mastura is a law practitioner who headed the research staff in the drafting committee of the Muslim Code or P.D. 1083 and the Special Rules of Court Governing the Shari'a Court. He was elected Representative to the 8th and 9th Congress and a Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention. Currently, he serves as President of the Sultan Kudarat Islamic Academy Foundation.

Eminent jurists also took part in the Second Centenary Lecture: Justice Omar U. Amin did the Invocation; Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing gave the Opening Remarks; Justice Fidel P. Purisima (Ret.) introduced the Centenary lecturer; Justice Josue N. Bellosillo gave the Closing Remarks; and DCA Reynaldo L. Suarez was the Master of Ceremonies.

The Centenary Lecture Series
July 2000 - June 2001

First

"The Chief Justices in Philippine History"
Mr. Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa (Ret.)
of the Supreme Court of the Philippines
July 11, 2000

Second

"Shari'a Law and Philippine Legal System"
Professor Michael O. Mastura
Founder and President of the Sultan Kudarat Islamic
Academy Foundation, Inc. (SKIA)
September 12, 2000

Third

***"Contracts and Transactions by E-Commerce:
Legal and Evidentiary Considerations"***
Congressman Leandro B. Verceles, Jr.
of the Lone District of Catanduanes
October 10, 2000

Fourth

"Life Technologies and the Rule of Law"
Dr. Franklin M. Zweig, Ph.D., J.D.
President of the Einstein Institute for Science,
Health and the Courts (EINSHAC)
Chevy Chase, Maryland, U.S.A.
November 14, 2000

Fifth

***"Protecting Civil Liberties in a State of
Continuing Emergency"***
Madame Justice Dorit Beinisch
of the Supreme Court of the State of Israel
December 5, 2000

Sixth

***"The Role of the Supreme Court of Hungary
in the Promotion and Enhancement
of Democracy and the Rule of Law"***
H.E. Dr. Pal Solt
President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Hungary
and of the National Council of Justice
January 16, 2001

Seventh

"Old Doctrines and New Paradigms"
Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban
of the Supreme Court of the Philippines
February 13, 2001

Eighth

"Paperless Courts: Envisioning the Future"
Chief Judge Richard Magnus
of the Singapore Subordinate Courts
March 13, 2001

PHILJA COMPLETES PHASE II OF PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM

The Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) conducted the second phase of the *Pre-Judicature Program* for one hundred (100) aspirants to judicial posts in the First and Second Level Trial Courts and the Court of Tax Appeals on July 17-28, 2000 at the Court of Appeals Auditorium, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Court of Appeals, Manila.

The Pre-Judicature Program, mandated by Section 10, Republic Act No. 8557, comprised two phases: Phase I which was held last June 19-30, 2000 and attended by 101 participants; and Phase II which had 100 of the participants of Phase I continuing the course. Only aspirants who had completed the two phases of the program could be nominated or promoted to judicial posts.

Phase II of the Pre-Judicature Program had three main agendas: application of the law to cases that come before the Bench; philosophies behind the particular legal provisions; and discernment of trends in jurisprudence. It also tackled the new challenges that the millennium brings, particularly those that come within the ambit of the law, such as contracts through e-commerce, and developments in other jurisdictions.

The participants found the following topics very informative and highly satisfactory: Crimes, Criminal and Civil Liabilities; Obligations and Contracts; Family Law and Succession; Developments in Conflict of Laws; Property; Commercial Papers; Civil Procedure and Evidence; and Partnerships and Corporations.

The next Pre-Judicature Program in 2001 will be limited to aspirants for judicial posts who are not yet members of the Judiciary. This means that incumbent judges of first-level courts who seek to be promoted will have to undergo other courses of the Academy instead, such as the Judicial Career Enhancement Program (JCEP), also designed for the enhancement of their skills.



COURT NEWS

Beginning this issue, news from and about courts around the country will be published in the PHILJA Bulletin to promote the sharing of ideas and useful practices.

RTC 9, DAVAO CITY RELEASES BULLETIN

Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch No. 9, Davao City, under the leadership of Judge Adoracion Cruz-Avisado, has come up with its own newsletter, "RTC 9 Bulletin," which is highly informative and well organized, containing useful and relevant news. Through the bulletin, community members witness first-hand the various resolutions, and advocacy and outreach activities with which RTC 9 is involved.

RTC 9 Bulletin reports on significant dialogues done with other sectors of the community such as the Davao City Police Office (DCPO), National Bureau of Investigations (NBI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Davao City Chapter. It gives an update on the status of cases and most importantly, it details marked improvements within the court system itself. Postponements, for instance, are no longer allowed. Thus, prosecution and defense are expected to be very well prepared. And for the month of July 2000, a total of twenty-seven (27) cases were resolved. As a result of a seminar workshop, resolutions were adopted calling on the institutionalization of Gender and Justice in the Judiciary, and requesting the national government for the allocation of not less than 5% of the national budget for the Judiciary.

The efforts of Judge Avisado and her court workers in RTC 9 in making the activities of their court transparent to the public are aimed at ensuring public faith and confidence in the justice system.

CIVIL LAW

Meaning of living for five years as husband and wife as exemption from marriage license requirement; proper parties to attack a void marriage; necessity of judicial action to declare nullity of marriage.

The five-year common-law cohabitation period, which is counted back from the date of celebration of marriage, should be a period of legal union had it not been for the absence of the marriage. This five-year period should be the years immediately before the day of the marriage and it should be a period of cohabitation characterized by exclusivity – meaning no third party was involved at any time within the five-years and continuing – that is unbroken. Otherwise, if that continuous five-year cohabitation is computed without any distinction as to whether the parties were capacitated to marry each other during the entire five years, then the law would be sanctioning immorality and encouraging parties to have common law relationships and placing them on the same footing with those who lived faithfully with their spouse. Marriage being a social relationship must be respected as such and its requirements must be strictly observed. x x x It should be in the nature of a perfect union that is valid under the law but rendered imperfect only by the absence of the marriage contract. x x x Only the parties to a voidable marriage can assail it, but any proper interested party may attack a void marriage. x x x

However, other than for purposes of remarriage, no judicial action is necessary to declare a marriage an absolute nullity. For other purposes, such as but not limited to determination of heirship, legitimacy or illegitimacy of a child, settlement of estate, dissolution of property regime, or a criminal case for that matter, the court may pass upon the validity of marriage even in a suit not directly instituted to question the same so long as it is essential to the determination of the case. When such need arises, a final judgement of declaration of nullity is necessary even if the purpose is other than to remarry. The clause "on the basis of a final judgement declaring such previous marriage void" in Article 40 of the Family Code connotes that such final judgement need not be obtained only for purpose of remarriage. (*Ynares-Santiago, J., Engrace Niñal v. Norma Bayadog*, GR 133778, March 14, 2000)

Obligations and Contracts; transmissibility of rights and obligations to heirs and assigns.

The general rule is that heirs are bound by contracts entered into by their predecessors-in-interest except when the rights and obligations arising therefrom are not transmissible by (1) their nature, (2) stipulation or (3) provision of law x x x.

The nature of intransmissible rights as explained by Arturo Tolentino, an eminent civilist, is as follows:

"Among contracts which are intransmissible are those purely personal, either by provision of law, such as in cases of partnership and agency, or by the very nature of the obligations arising therefrom, such as those requiring special personal qualifications of the obligor. It may also be stated that contracts for the payment of money debts are not transmitted to the heirs of a party, but constitute a charge against his estate. xxx."

In American jurisprudence, where acts stipulated in a contract require that the exercise of special knowledge, genius, skill, taste, ability, experience, judgment, discretion, integrity, or other personal qualification of one or both parties, the agreement is of a personal nature, and terminates on the death of the party who is required to render such service.

It has also been held that a good measure for determining whether a contract terminates upon the death of one of the parties is whether it is of such a character that it may be performed by the promisor's personal representative. Contract to perform personal acts which cannot be as well performed by others are discharged by the death of the promisor. Conversely, where the service or act is of such a character that it may as well be performed by another, or where the contract, by its terms, shows that performance by others was contemplated, death does not terminate the contract or excuse non-performance. (*Ynares-Santiago, J., DKC Holdings Corporation v. Court of Appeals, et al*, GR 118248, April 5, 2000)

CIVIL LAW

Option contract defined.

In *Carcelar v. Court of Appeals* (G.R. No. 127471, February 10, 1999), the Court explained the nature of an option contract, viz:

An Option contract is a preparatory contract in which one party grants to the other for a fixed period and under specified conditions, the power to decide whether or not to enter into a principal contract. It binds the party who has given the option not to enter into the principal contract with any other person during the period designated and within that period, to enter into such contract with the one to whom the option was granted, if the latter should decide to use the option. It is a separate agreement distinct from the contract to which the parties may enter upon the consummation of the option.

An Option contract is, therefore, a contract separate from and preparatory to a contract of sale which, if perfected, does not result in the perfection or consummation of the sale. Only when the option is exercised may a sale be perfected.

Contract of sale; perfection and consummation of contracts of sale; seller must be the owner of the thing sold at the consummation stage.

A contract of sale is perfected at the moment there is a meeting of minds upon the thing which is the object of the contract and upon the price. It is, therefore, not required that at the perfection stage, the seller be the owner of the thing sold or even that such subject matter of the sale exists at that point in time. Thus, under Article 1434 of the Civil Code, when a person sells or alienates a thing which at that time was not his, but later acquires title thereto, such title passes by operation of law to the buyer or grantee. This is the same principle behind the sale of "future goods" under Article 1462 of the Civil Code. However, under Article 1459, at the time of delivery or consummation stage of the sale, it is required that the seller be the owner of the thing sold. Otherwise, he will not be able to comply with his obligation to transfer ownership to the buyer. It is at the consummation stage where the principle of *nemo dat quod non habet* applies which means that one cannot give what one does not have. (*Mendoza, J., Cavite Development Bank & Far East Bank & Trust Co. v. Spouses Cyrus Lim & Lolita Chan Lim and C.A.*, GR 131679, February 1, 2000)

Ejectment; issue of ownership in ejectment cases.

The issue of ownership cannot be definitively decided in an ejectment case where the Metropolitan, Municipal and Circuit Trial Courts have no jurisdiction. x x x Allegations of ownership are not required in ejectment suits as the only issue is physical possession. This rule, however, does not preclude the ejectment court from inquiring into the issue of ownership when the same is intertwined with the question of possession. (*Kapunan, J., Alfredo Paz v. Rosario Reyes*, GR 127439, March 9, 2000)

Ejectment; requisites for the purpose of bringing an ejectment suit.

For the purpose of bringing an ejectment suit, two requisites must concur: (1) there must be failure to pay rent or comply with the conditions of the lease, and (2) there must be demand both to pay or to comply and vacate within the periods specified in Section 2, Rule 70 of the Rules of Court namely fifteen (15) days in case of land and five (5) days in case of buildings. The first requisite refers to the existence of the cause of action for unlawful detainer while the second refers to the jurisdictional requirement of demand in order that said cause of action may be pursued. (*Quisumbing, J., Almario Saipan v. Court of Appeals et. al.*, GR 111928, March 1, 2000)

CRIMINAL LAW

Oral defamation; factors to be considered in determining whether it is slight or serious.

In resolving the issue whether the oral defamation was slight or serious, the Court was guided by a doctrine of ancient respectability "that defamatory words will fall under one or the other depending not only upon their sense, grammatical significance, and accepted ordinary meaning judging them separately, but also upon the special circumstances of the case, antecedents or relationship between the offended party and the offender, which might tend to prove the intentions of the offender at the time. (*Pardo, J., Rogelio Pader v. People*, GR 139157, February 8, 2000)

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Qualifying circumstance distinguished from aggravating circumstance.

A qualifying circumstance changes the nature of the crime. A generic aggravating circumstance, on the other hand, does not affect the designation of the crime; it merely provides for the imposition of the prescribed penalty in its maximum period. Thus, while a generic aggravating circumstance may be offset by a mitigating circumstance, a qualifying circumstance may not. (*Panganiban, J., People v. Efren Mendoza y Salvador*, GR 133382, March 9, 2000)

POLITICAL LAW

Eminent domain; source & exercise of eminent domain by local governments; requisites for the exercise thereof; ordinance & resolution distinguished; two stages of expropriation proceedings.

The basis for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by local government units is Section 19 of RA 6190. x x x Despite the existence of this legislative grant in favor of local governments, it is still the duty of the courts to determine whether the power of eminent domain is being exercised in accordance with the delegating law. x x x The courts have the obligation to determine whether the following requisites have been complied with by the local government unit concerned:

1. An ordinance is enacted by the local legislative council authorizing the local chief executive, in behalf of the local government unit, to exercise the power of eminent domain or pursue expropriation proceedings over a particular private property;
2. The power of eminent domain is exercised for public use, purpose or welfare, or for the benefit of the poor and the landless;
3. There is payment of just compensation as required under Section 9, Article III of the Constitution, and other pertinent laws;

4. A valid and definite offer has been previously made to the owner of the property sought to be expropriated, but said offer was not accepted.

x x x

We reiterate our ruling in *Municipality of Parañaque v. V.M. Realty Corporation* regarding the distinction between an ordinance and a resolution. x x x A municipal ordinance is different from a resolution. An ordinance is a law, but a resolution is merely a declaration of the sentiment or opinion of a lawmaking body on a specific matter. An ordinance possesses a general and permanent character, but a resolution is temporary in nature.

x x x

Rule 67 of the 1997 Revised Rules of Court reveals that expropriation proceedings are composed of two stages:

1. The first is concerned with the determination of the authority of the plaintiff to exercise the power of eminent domain and the propriety of its exercise in the context of the facts involved in the suit. It ends with an order, if not in a dismissal of the action, of condemnation declaring that the plaintiff has a lawful right to take the property sought to be condemned, for public use or purpose described in the complaint, upon the payment of just compensation to be determined as of the date of the filing of the complaint;
2. The second phase is concerned with the determination by the court of the just compensation for the property sought to be taken. This is done by the court with the existence of not more than three (3) commissioners. (*Gonzaga-Reyes, J., Heirs of Alberto Suguitan v. City of Mandaluyong*, GR 135087, March 14, 2000)



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PROCEDURAL LAW

Criminal procedure; preliminary investigation; applicable rules; stages of preliminary investigation.

The root of the controversy is the unfamiliarity of respondent judge with the rules applicable in cases requiring preliminary investigation, i.e., Section 1 and Section 9 of Rule 112 of the Rules of Court. x x x Contrary to the clear mandate of the aforesaid rules, the respondent judge conducted the preliminary investigation culminating in the lowering of the charge to simple slander. The original charge for grave oral defamation is punishable by *arresto mayor* in its maximum period to *prision correccional* in its minimum period, while simple slander is punishable by *arresto menor* or a fine not exceeding P200.00. Thus, the original charges were cognizable by the Municipal Trial Court and did not require a preliminary investigation. The proper action the respondent judge could have taken under the premises was to dismiss the complaint if found to be without any basis for further proceedings or if warranted to issue a warrant of arrest for the respondent and after arrest, to hold him for trial. It is decisively clear that in conducting the preliminary investigation under attack, the respondent judge exceeded his authority under the pertinent rules. x x x Not only was such preliminary investigation defective; it was a patent error because no preliminary investigation is required for criminal cases cognizable by Municipal Trial Courts. It is only required for those cognizable by the Regional Trial Court. x x x Furthermore, in *Bagunas v. Fabillan*, the Court reiterated that under the new rules of procedure, preliminary investigation has only one stage x x x. Presidential Decree 911, upon which the present rule is based, removed the preliminary examination stage and integrated it into the preliminary investigation proper. (*Purisima, J., Josefina M. Villanueva v. Judge Benjamin Almazan*, AM MTJ-99-1221, March 11, 2000)

Bail; duties of Judges in case application for bail is filed; necessity of hearing in the grant of bail.

The following duties of judges in case an application for bail is filed have been clearly and repeatedly spelled out during seminars conducted by the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), to wit:

1. In all cases whether bail is a matter of right or discretion, notify the prosecutor of the hearing of the application for bail or require him to submit his recommendation (Section 18, Rule 114 of the Rules of Court, as amended);
2. Where bail is a matter of discretion, conduct a hearing of the application for bail *regardless of whether or not the prosecution refuses to present evidence to show that the guilt of the accused is strong for the purpose of enabling the court to exercise its sound discretion* (Sections 7 and 8, *supra*);
3. Decide whether the guilt of the accused is strong based on the summary of evidence of the prosecution;
4. If the guilt of the accused is not strong, discharge the accused upon the approval of the bail bond (Section 19, *supra*). Otherwise, the petition should be denied. (*Cortes v. Catral*, 279 SCRA 1 [1997], citing *Basco v. Rapatalo*, 269 SCRA 220 [1997]; emphasis and italics supplied)

The procedural necessity of a hearing relative to the grant of bail cannot be dispensed with especially in this case where the accused is charged with a capital offense. Utmost diligence is required of trial judges in granting bail especially in cases where bail is not a matter of right. Certain procedures must be followed in order that the accused would be present during trial. As a responsible judge, respondent must not be swayed by the mere representations of the parties; instead, he should look into the real and hard facts of the case. (*Ynares-Santiago, J., Juana Marzan-Gelacio v. Judge Alipio V. Flores*, A.M. No. RTJ-99-1488, June 20, 2000)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Civil service; security of tenure; abolition of office.

It is beyond dispute that petitioners are members of the civil service x x x. As such, they cannot be removed or suspended from office except for cause provided by law. The phrase "except for

cause provided by law" refers to "...reasons which the law and sound public policy recognize as sufficient warrant for removal, that is legal causes, and not merely causes which the appointing power in the exercise of discretion may deem sufficient."

The creation and abolition of public offices is primarily a legislative function. x x x However, in order for the abolition to be valid, it must be made in good faith; not for political or personal reasons, or in order to circumvent the constitutional security of tenure of civil service employees. An abolition of office connotes an intention to do away with such office wholly and permanently, as the word "abolished" denotes. Where one office is abolished and replaced with another office vested with similar functions, the abolition is a legal nullity. This is also the ruling in *Guerrero v. Arizabal* (186 SCRA 108 [1990]) wherein it was declared that the substantial identity in the functions between the two offices was indicia of bad faith in the removal of petitioner pursuant to a reorganization. (*Gonzaga-Reyes, J., Alexis Canonizado, Edgar Dula Torres, and Rogelio Pureza v. Hon. Alexander Aguirre as Executive Secretary, et. al.*, GR 133132, January 25, 2000)

LAND REGISTRATION

Obligation of interested parties in land registration proceedings; right of a holder of a prior certificate; remedies of landowner whose land is registered in the name of another applicant.

In land registration proceedings, all interested parties are obliged to take care of their interests and to zealously pursue their objective of registration on account of the rule that whoever first acquires title to a piece of land shall prevail. To illustrate, where more than one certificate of title is issued over the land, the person holding a prior certificate is entitled to the land as against a person who relies on a subsequent certificate. It should be stressed that said rule refers to *the date of the certificate of title* and not to the date of filing of the application for registration of title. Hence, even though an applicant precedes another, he may not be deemed to have priority of right to register title. As such, while his application is being processed, an applicant is duty-bound to observe vigilance and to take care that his right or interest is duly protected.

An applicant for registration has but a one-year period from the issuance of the decree of registration in favor of another applicant, within which to question the validity of the certificate of title issued pursuant to such decree. Once the one-year period has lapsed, the title to the land becomes indefeasible. In *Javier v. Court of Appeals* (GR No. 101177, March 28, 1994, 231 SCRA), the Court ruled x x x that the decree becomes incontrovertible and can no longer be reviewed after one year from the date of the decree so that the only remedy of the landowner whose property has been wrongfully or erroneously registered in another's name is to bring an ordinary action in court for reconveyance, which is an action in personam and is always available as long as the property has not passed to an innocent third party for value. If the property has passed into the hands of an innocent purchase for value, the remedy is an action for damages. (*Ynares-Santiago, J., Heirs of Pedro Lopez et. al. v. Honesto de Castro et. al.*, GR 112905, February 3, 2000)

Two certificates of title covering the same land and issued to different persons; title not tantamount to ownership.

"We have consistently ruled that when two certificates of title are issued to different persons concerning the same land in whole or in part, the earlier in date must prevail, and in case of successive registrations where more than one certificate is issued over the same land, the person holding a prior certificate is entitled to the land as against a person who relies on a subsequent certificate. A certificate is not conclusive evidence of title if the same land had been registered and an earlier certificate for the same is in existence. x x x Consequently, private respondents' title must be respected. They have in their favor the law that protects holders of title under the torrens system of land registration. Although title does not vest ownership, time and again we have ruled that a torrens certificate is evidence of an indefeasible title to property in favor of the person "whose name appears thereon." (*Pardo, J., Jesus Liao v. Court of Appeals et. al.*, GR 102961-62, GR 107625, & GR 108759, January 27, 2000)

SUPREME COURT

EN BANC

A.M. 99-11-07-SC

Designation of certain branches of the REGIONAL TRIAL COURT as Family Courts

WHEREAS, under the Resolution of 1 February 2000 in this administrative matter, three (3) RTC branches in the City of Manila were designated as Family Courts;

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that the number of salas designated is not enough to effectively cope with the influx of family court cases. Thus, there is an immediate need to designate additional RTC branches as Family Courts;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following branches of the Regional Trial Court at the City of Manila are hereby further DESIGNATED as additional Family Courts:

1. Branch 4, Judge Socorro B. Inting
2. Branch 9, Judge Amelia T. Infante
3. Branch 38, Judge Priscilla B. Padilla
4. Branch 43, Judge Manuela Florendo Lorenzo

The following guidelines shall be adopted:

1. All cases cognizable by Family Courts filed after the effectivity of this Resolution shall be raffled among the above-mentioned RTC branches until such time that it is equitable to include the previously designated Family Courts in the City of Manila in the raffle of such cases to be determined by the Executive Judge therein.

2. The above-mentioned salas shall submit to the Executive Judge a list of cases not cognizable by the Family Courts except those where trial has already begun, for re-raffle among the other RTC branches thereof.

3. The guidelines set forth in the previous resolution of 1 February 2000 in this administrative matter is adopted in so far as they are applicable.

This Resolution shall take effect on the 1st day of September 2000, and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines not later than the 25th day of August 2000.

Approved this 22nd day of August 2000.

(Sgd.) DAVIDE, JR. C), BELLOSILLO, MELO, PUNO, VITUG, KAPUNAN, MENDOZA, PANGANIBAN, QUISUMBING, PURISIMA, PARDO, BUENA, GONZAGA-REYES, YNARES-SANTILAGO, DE LEON, JJ

EN BANC

A.M. No. 00-8-01-SC

Resolution designating certain branches of the REGIONAL TRIAL COURT as SPECIAL COURTS for DRUG CASES regardless of the quantity of the drugs involved.

WHEREAS, public policy and public interest demand that criminal cases involving violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 (R.A. No. 6435), as amended, be expeditiously resolved;

WHEREAS, presently, drug cases where the impossible penalty is Reclusion Perpetua to death are assigned to designated heinous crimes courts while some drug cases where the impossible penalty is lower than death are assigned to the following branches of the Regional Trial Court:

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|
| I. | Cebu City | : Branch 10 |
| II. | Manila | : Branches 2 & 16 |
| III. | Quezon City | : Branches 79 & 84 |
| IV. | Makati City | : Branches 65 & 135 |
| V. | Pasig City | : Branches 157 & 165 |
| VI. | Kalookan City | : Branch 120 |
| VII. | Baguio City | : Branch 61 |
| VIII. | Cagayan de Oro City | : Branch 40 |
| IX. | Davao City | : Branch 9 |

WHEREAS, due to the alarming drug menace in the country, it is the consensus of many that the designation of certain branches of the Regional Trial Court as Special Courts to try and decide drug cases regardless of the quantity of the drugs involved may immediately address the problem of delay in the resolution of drug cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 23 of B.P. Blg. 129, in the interest of speedy and efficient administration of justice and subject to the guidelines set forth, the following branches of the RTCs are hereby designated as Special Courts for drug cases, which shall hear and decide all criminal cases in their respective jurisdictions involving violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 (R.A. No. 6425) as amended, regardless of the quantity of the drugs involved.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| I. | Manila: |
| Branch 2, | Judge Florante A. Cipres |
| Branch 11, | Judge Luis J. Arranz |
| Branch 13, | Judge Mario L. Guarina III |

Branch 16, Judge Ramon O. Santiago
 Branch 23, Judge Sesinando E. Villon
 Branch 31, Judge Leonardo P. Reyes
 Branch 35, Judge Ramon P. Makasiar

II. Quezon City:

Branch 79, Judge Demetrio B. Macapagal, Sr.
 Branch 84, Judge Mariflor Punzalan Castillo
 Branch 86, Judge Teodoro A. Bay
 Branch 95, Judge Diosdado M. Peralta
 Branch 103, Judge Jaime N. Salazar, Jr.

III. Pasay City:

Branch 119, Judge Pedro D. Gutierrez

IV. Kalookan City:

Branch 120, Judge Victorino S. Alvaro
 Branch 123, Judge Edmundo T. Acuña
 Branch 127, Judge Myrna D. Vidal

V. Makati City

Branch 65, Judge Salvador S. Abad Santos
 Branch 135, Judge Francisco B. Ibay

VI. Pasig City:

Branch 157, Judge Esperanza F. Victorino
 Branch 158, Judge Jose R. Hernandez
 Branch 164, Judge Librado S. Correa
 Branch 165, Judge Marietta A. Legaspi

VII. Malabon:

Branch 72, Judge Benjamin M. Aquino, Jr.

VIII. Parañaque:

Branch 259, Judge Zosimo V. Escano

JUDICIAL REGIONS

Region I.

Baguio City:

Branch 61, Judge Antonio C. Reyes

Region III.

Malolos, Bulacan:

Branch 20, Judge Oscar C. Herrera
 Branch 21, Judge Cesar M. Solis
 Branch 76, Judge Roland B. Jurado
 Branch 78, Judge Gregorio S. Sampaga

Angeles City:

Branch 57, Judge Omar T. Viola
 Branch 62, Judge Melencio W. Claros

Region VI.

Iloilo City:

Branch 25, Judge Bartolome M. Fanuñal

Bacolod City:

Branch 45, Judge Edgardo L. de los Santos
 Branch 53, Judge Pepito B. Gellada

Region VII.

Cebu City:

Branch 10, Judge Soliver C. Peras
 Branch 14, Judge Raphael B. Yrastorza
 Branch 17, Judge Silvestre A. Maamo, Jr.

Dumaguete City:

Branch 30, Judge Ramon M. Bato, Jr.

Region IX.

Zamboanga City:

Branch 13, Judge Carlito A. Eisma

Region X.

Cagayan de Oro City :

Branch 40, Judge Epifanio T. Nacaya, Jr.

Region XI.

Davao City :

Branch 9, Judge Adoracion Cruz Avisado

The following guidelines shall be adopted by the designated courts:

1. The Judges of all branches of the RTCs stationed in the above-mentioned courts shall make, within ten (10) days from receipt hereof, an inventory of all criminal cases involving violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 (R.A. 6425), as amended. The inventory shall indicate the case number; the date the information was filed; the date the accused was arraigned; and the status of each case, i.e, whether it is for arraignment, pre-trial, or decision. Copies of the inventory shall be furnished the Office of the Chief Justice, the Office of the Court Administrator, the Executive Judges of the RTCs concerned, and the Judges of the Branches herein designated.
2. Drug cases that have not yet reached the arraignment stage shall be transferred to the designated Special Courts, together with their corresponding records, which shall be duly receipted for by the Clerk of Court of the Branch concerned. The transfer shall be effected within thirty (30) days following the submission of an inventory. Those drug cases wherein the accused or any of them has already been arraigned shall continue to be heard by the respective branches to which they have been originally assigned and shall be given utmost priority.

3. Prior to the effectivity of this Resolution, cases before the designated Special Courts other than drug cases, wherein trial has already begun, shall continue to be heard by such Special Courts. For purposes hereof, a criminal case is considered begun when the accused or any of them has already been arraigned.
 4. All information for violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act, as amended, shall forthwith be assigned to the designated Special Courts in their respective jurisdictions.
 5. The drugs cases referred to herein shall undergo mandatory continuous trial and shall be terminated within sixty (60) days from commencement of the trial. Judgement 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.
 6. No postponements or continuance shall be allowed except for meritorious reasons. Pleadings or motions found to have been filed for dilatory purposes shall constitute direct contempt and shall be punished accordingly.
 7. The Executive Judges of the RTCs concerned shall exclude these designated Special Courts from the raffle of other cases subsequent to the assignment or transfer to them of the drug cases. The branches which shall have transferred drug cases to the Special Courts shall be given appropriate replacements therefor through raffle. The Executive Judges of the RTCs concerned shall see to it that there shall be an equitable replacement of cases to the affected branches.
 8. 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 Special Court in the station, the inhibiting judge shall immediately furnish the Office of the Chief Justice of his Order of Inhibition in order that another judge can be designated to preside over the case; and (b) where there are two Special Courts in the station, the Executive Judge shall immediately assign the case to the other Special Court, which shall, in turn, unload to the inhibiting judge a case from his docket.
 9. In case of temporary incapacity, absence or disability of the judge of the designated Special Court to perform his duties, the pairing system for multiple sala stations subject of Circular No. 19-98 dated February 18, 1998 shall apply.
 10. The Branches herein designated as Special Courts shall continue to perform their functions as such within the purview of this Resolution even after the retirement, transfer, or detail of the incumbent judges appointed or 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.
 11. The Branches herein designated as Special Courts which were previously designated as heinous crime courts shall no longer handle cases covered under Administrative Order No. 104-96 of 21 October 1996 as amended by Circular No. 31-97 of 15 May 1997.
- This Resolution amends Administrative Order No. 104-96 of 21 October 1996, as amended by Circular No. 31-97 of 15 May 1997, Administrative Order No. 47-97 dated 19 March 1997, Administrative Order No. 77-97 dated 25 July 1997, En Banc Resolution of 3 August 1999 in A.M. No. 99-7-20-SC, and En Banc Resolution of 22 November 1999 in A.M. No. 99-11-02-SC.
- This Resolution shall take effect on the first day of September 2000, and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines not later than 15 August 2000.
- Let copies of this Resolution be furnished the Office of the Chief Justice; the Offices of the Associate Justices; the Office of the President; the Judicial & Bar Council; the Philippine Judicial Academy; the Office of the Court Administrator; the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court; the Secretary of Justice; the Office of the Solicitor General; the Presidents of the Philippine Judges Association, the Philippine Trial Judges League, Inc. and the Metro and City Judges Association of the Philippines; and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.
- APPROVED this first day of August 2000.
- (Sgd.) DAVIDE, JR. CJ, MELO, PUNO, VITUG, KAPUNAN, MENDOZA, PANGANIBAN, QUISUMBING, PURISIMA, PARDO, BUENA, GONZAGA-REYES, YNARES-SANTIAGO, DELEON, JR., BELLOSILLO (on official leave), JJ

EN BANC**A.M. No. 00-8-03-SC****A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL WORKERS OF THE FAMILY COURTS OR REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS UNDER THE FAMILY COURTS ACT OF 1997***

On 23 November 1997, Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" (approved and signed on 28 October 1997) took effect. Section 10 of R.A. 8369 describes, among others, the duties of the Social Workers or Social Welfare Officers of the courts. The Social Workers shall be "qualified social workers" "with academic preparation in behavioral sciences to carry out the duties of conducting intake assessment, social case studies, casework and counseling, and other social services that may be needed in connection with cases filed with the court."

On the basis of the provisions of R.A. No. 8369, Social Workers of the courts should now be assigned to handle and attend to all social services required in all cases, including adoption cases, falling within the jurisdiction of the Family Court filed with and pending before either the Regional Trial Courts designated to hear and decided such cases or the regular Regional Trial Courts, as the case may be. These Social Workers should, in their own right, in the first instance and independently of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, conduct the case studies in adoption cases required by Article 33 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code, as amended, and submit their reports, with recommendations, to the courts handling and hearing such cases. In the preparation of case studies, the Social Workers of the courts need no longer coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development or its representatives as prescribed by Circulars No. 12 dated 2 October 1986.

The foregoing now applies, not withstanding Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8552, otherwise known as the "Domestic Adoption Act of 1998," which provides that "[n]o petition for adoption shall be set for hearing unless a licensed social worker of the Department [of Social Welfare and Development], the social service office of the local government unit, or any child-placing or

child-caring agency has made a case study of the adoptee, his/her biological parent(s), as well as the adopter(s), and has submitted the report and recommendations on the matter to the court hearing such petition." Section 11 does not mention the Social Workers of the courts among those who may undertake case studies in adoption cases. The enumeration under said Section of those who may conduct case studies in adoption cases should not be considered as exclusionary and should not bar the Social Workers of the courts from performing the function herein involved. Section 11 does not state that only those listed may conduct case studies in adoption cases or that only they have the exclusive authority to undertake the same.

The provisions of Circular No. 12 dated 2 October 1986 to the effect that the Social Workers of the courts should coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development or its representatives in the preparation and submission of case studies in adoption cases have already been superseded by the relevant Sections of R.A. 8369.

This resolution shall take effect on the first day of September 2000, and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) DAVIDE, JR. CJ, MELO, PUNO, KAPUNAN, MENDOZA, PANGANIBAN, QUISUMBING, PURISIMA, PARDO, BUENA, GONZAGA-REYES, YNARES-SANTIAGO, DE LEON, JR., BELLOSILLO (on official leave abroad), JJ

* This refers to the Family courts or, in the meantime that the Family Courts have not been established and organized in accordance with Section 3 of R.A. No. 8369, the Regional Trial Courts designated to handle the cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Family Courts pursuant to the Resolution dated 1 February 2000 of the Supreme Court En Banc in Administrative Matter No. 99-11-07-SC.

3rd Floor of the Supreme Court
Building
Taft Avenue, Manila

PRESIDING JUDGE

2000 Upcoming PHILJA Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Seminars</i>	<i>Venue</i>
July 6, 10-14 July 7	Pre-workshop Training and Basic Mediation Workshop Evaluation Workshop on the Pilot Testing of Court-Referred Mediation in Cities of Mandaluyong and Valenzuela	AIM, Makati City AIM, Makati City
July 10-14	Gender Sensitivity Training Program for Members of the Five Pillars of the Criminal Justice System	West Gorordo Hotel, Cebu City
July 11	1st Centenary Lecture, "The Chief Justices in Philippine History," Mr. Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa (Ret.)	SC Session Hall, Manila
July 17-28 July 28	Pre-Judicature Program (Phase II) Workshop on Family Mediation	CA Auditorium, Manila 2nd floor, New SC Bldg
July 31	Administrative Adjudication Seminar	City Garden Hotel, Manila
August 10-12	4th Convention and Seminar of Philippine Judges Association	Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City
August 28- 31	Judicial Career Enhancement Program (Basic Course)	PHILJA, Tagaytay City
September 12	2nd Centenary Lecture, "Shari'a Law and the Philippine Legal System," Professor Michael O. Mastura	SC Session Hall, Manila
September 20-22 September 26-29	1st Regional Seminar for Judges and Court Personnel of Region II 1st Regional Multi-Sectoral Seminar on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Justice for NCJR North	Tuguegarao, Cagayan PHILJA, Tagaytay City

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Layout and Design
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Printing
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The *PHILJA Bulletin* is published quarterly by the Research and Publications Office of the Philippine Judicial Academy with offices at the 3rd Floor of the Supreme Court Building, Taft Avenue, Manila. Tel. No. 522-3249 ; Telefax No. 525-8939
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