

*The Bedan*

June - September 2017

# ALUMNUS



**The Official Publication of the San Beda College Alumni Association**  
Third Epoch • Founded 1962 by Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB



# BEDANS

## Serving the Nation





**SAN MIGUEL  
CORPORATION**




# EDITOR'S Greetings

**Dr. Joffre M. Alajar**  
(GS '72, HS '76, CAS '80)

Having Rodrigo Roa Duterte (Law'72) as the first Bedan President, we already anticipated a significant number of fellow Bedans to serve with him in the government.

True enough, the moment President Duterte assumed office, he made it appoint to have a number of Bedans play various significant roles in his formidable administration.

This special edition of The Bedan Alumnus Magazine aptly titled "Bedans Serving the Nation" is the San Beda College Alumni Association's salute to all Bedans elected and appointed by President Rody to serve the Filipino people, and assist in steering the nation towards a stronger and more promising future.

The Editorial Board members together with the Alumni Office staff did their very best to come up with a complete listing and brief profile of all Bedans now in public service.

As we go to the press for this special issue, more and more Bedans are appointed and still being considered by President Rody for various leadership positions in the different branches of government. We apologize for the non-inclusion of their names, photos and profiles in this issue to enable us to meet the target date of the release of this important publication.

On behalf of the board of trustees, officers and members of the San Beda College Association, the San Beda College Alumni Foundation and the SBC Law Alumni Association, I congratulate fellow Bedans now in government. May you all prove equal to the great tasks ahead of serving our people "for San Beda, our Country and God."

Animo, San Beda!

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Published quarterly by the  
San Beda College Alumni Association

All manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to:  
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**MALACAÑAN PALACE  
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## **MESSAGE**

**Rodrigo Roa Duterte**  
*President of the Philippines*

**My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the San Beda College Alumni Association, San Beda College Alumni Foundation and the SBC Law Alumni Association, on the release of the special issue of The Bedan Alumnus Magazine with the theme: Bedans Serving the Nation.**

**San Beda College's stature as one of the country's premiere schools is a testament to the quality of the graduates it has produced over the past many years. I commend our Alumni Associations for coming up with this special issue recognizing Bedans who are with me in serving the Filipino people.**

**As we steer our nation towards a stronger and more prosperous future, I ask each of you to draw strength from our unique fraternal bond, reminiscent of our days in Mendiola, as you continue to bring honor and distinction to our beloved alma mater.**

**Once again, congratulations and I wish you all the best.**



## BEDANS SERVING THE NATION IN GOVERNMENT

*by Atty. Rano V. Segulang*



Bedans Ninoy Aquino, Monching Mitra and Raul Roco aspired to be President. But, Providence and Destiny decreed that Digong Duterte would be it. Regrettably, there is little that he and I, from the human rights community, find ourselves on the same page on that I am surprised when we do, as in the case of the Bells of Balangiga.

I went to Wyoming in 1992 because of those Bells, now sitting in Fort Warren, just outside of Cheyenne.

Go there, Pinoy traveller, look at the bells, the cannon, and the inscription, and see if you can be so insensitive with a soul so dead as not to feel

something surging within you. It is time some focus was applied to the enterprise, which Prez Digong splendidly provided in his latest SONA. Remembrance of things past enables us to have a sense of where we are, and should go. The bells can remind us that there were proud moments in our past, when our people, united, fought for honor, and did not behave like a circular firing squad.

There may not be too many such moments but such a one was one Sunday morning in September 1901, in Balangiga. From time to time enough Filipinos agree on what truly matters; we have our Balangigas, Bataans and Edsas, when we hear the footsteps of history. Let freedom ring once more from those bells, back in Balangiga, where they belong, to punctuate America's generosity of spirit, Digong's many-splendored resolution, and the courage of our forebears - to help in the healing.

In 1992 Fil-Am lawyer Chuck Medel and I motored from Denver's Stapleton Airport to Cheyenne, along a scenic range where the deer and the antelope play. There we saw two bells (dated 1883 and 1889, respectively) and the British-made Falcon cannon (circa 16th century). Mine eyes have seen the glory of those Bells. *(A third is with a U.S. Army unit in South Korea.)*

There remains formidable resistance to the Return, supposedly, from some Wyoming officials and residents *(but the local Catholic leadership is for the return of church property)*. The resistance should yield to time, patience and effort; and the time has come.

The two bells, more than three feet high, along with the old cannon, are in the middle of the camp. The literature on same makes gripping reading even today, in that someday somehow, the bells will come home where they belong. In Balangiga.

May they ring in freedom there.

Thank you, Mr. Prez. Stronger, together.

We should also recognize Henry S. Bensurto, Jr., for his great work on the West Philippine Sea issue, leading to our arbitral win last year. Our law alum ('90) has worked very hard on it. He's now our Consul-General in San Francisco.

Days after we won against China on July 12, 2016, he recalled a touching email from a junior officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The



Medialdea



Aguirre

latter thanked him for being the once "lonely voice" that pushed for the case. "Oh, I cannot describe to you the pain," he told Rappler in August 2016, when asked to explain why he was called a "lonely voice." Henry, 52, was the silent hero behind the blueprint of our case against China at The Hague, in the face of naysayers in the DFA. His work led to our historic win on July 12, 2016.

Henry has been our consul general to San Francisco since June 2014. He had earlier studied public international law at Oxford under a Chevening scholarship, he graduated with distinction in 1996.

Convinced of bringing China to court, particularly to a legally-binding compulsory arbitration on the sea dispute, Henry discussed his idea with with then DFA Secretary Albert Del Rosario. The two of them brought this proposal to PNoy, who retained Paul Reichler, a Harvard law cum laude alum I once worked with.

TY, PNoy, Digong, Henry and Paul.

Of course we are not to forget the Bedans in the Cabinet, Executive Secretary Bingbong Medialdea, Justice Secretary Vit Aguirre, Transportation Secretary Art Tugade and Information and Communications Technology Secretary Rudy Salalima.



Tugade



Salalima

Veep Leni Robredo was my grad school stude.

And certainly our prayers sana for gutsy Senator Leila de Lima, serving two terms simultaneously, one in the Senate and another, in jail. She is presumed innocent and I am convinced she is. Had she sung with the Chuwari-Wari choir, or just kept quiet, she would, in all likelihood, not be in Crame today, from where I sit. Digong sadly negatively reacts to criticisms from Bedan Leila, and Noynoy Aquino and Grace Poe, children of Bedans. They mean well, Mr. Prez. The law should not be administered with an evil eye and an unequal hand, as we learn in our law school.

And many Bedans serve our people without, without a government position, pay, powers and perks.

Stronger, Together.



## **An Epic Achievement** *More Bedans in the Service of the Filipino People*

*By Jeffrey M. Afajar*

Good or bad, more Bedans are now in the service of the Filipino people. And quoting former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, "the nation is safe in their Bedan hands, as long as among them are pros and contras, supporters and dissenters, admirers and critics." It is a fact though, that many Bedans genuinely and sincerely support the leadership of fellow Bedan President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. And so, as President Duterte continuously scout for executive officials who will serve as his alter egos in running the government, he did not have anybody in mind who have the essential qualities of competence and integrity than his fellow outstanding Bedan lawyers. So it did not come as a big surprise when he appointed Bedans, namely: Antonio A. Cablitas, Presidential Adviser on Foreign Investments (Law '72); Jesus Melchor V. Quitain, Undersecretary, Office of the President, (Law '70); Adnan V. Alonto, Ambassador-Designate, Saudi Arabia (Law '85); Emmanuel F. Dooc, President & CEO, Social Security System (Law '79); Dennis B. Funa, Commissioner, Insurance Commission (Law '90); Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Philippine Mining Development Corporation (Law '71); Bienvenido K. Chy, General Manager, Philippine Retirement Authority (Law '72); Benjamin C. De Los Santos, Director General, Bureau of Corrections

(Law '78); John Paul R. Ganalon, General Counsel, Governance Commission for GOCCs (Law '07); Gary V. De Guzman, Undersecretary, Department of Transportation (Law '94); Antonio L. Kho, Jr., Undersecretary, Department of Justice (Law '91); Erickson H. Balmes, Undersecretary, Department of Justice (Law '00); Raymund L. Mecate, Undersecretary, Department of Justice (Law '92); Reynante B. Orceo, Undersecretary, Department of Justice (Law '92-'94); George O. Ortha II, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice (Law '02); Leah V. Merida-Quiambao, Assistant Secretary, Department of Transportation (Law '06); Raul E. Canon, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Department of Transportation (Law '10); Carlos Mayorico E. Callwara, Assistant Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology (Law '87); John Henry D. Naga, Assistant Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology (Law '13); Federico V. Abuan, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (Law '77); Marvel Chiu Clavecilla, Director, Philippine National Oil Company (Law '72); Tomas F. Lahom III, Director, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (Law '85); Rogelio V. Garcia, Director, Development Bank of the Philippines (Law '71); Teodoro M. Jumamil, Director, Development Bank of the Philippines



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**Justice Tijan with Justice Acosta, Dr. Bernal and Atty. Cruz**

(Law '78); Reynaldo F. Tansloco, Board Member, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Law '72); John Carlo Gil M. Sadian, Director IV, Office of the President (Law '11); Arthur L. Amansec, Commissioner, Social Security Systems (Law '72); Gonzalo P. Duque, Commissioner, Social Security Systems (Law '76); Rey E. Bulay, Commissioner, Presidential Commission on Good Government (Law '01); John A. Agbayani, Commissioner, Presidential Commission on Good Government (Law '78); Emilio B. Aquino, Associate Commissioner, Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (Law '92); Roland B. Beltran, Commissioner, Sugar Regulatory Administration (Law '89); Rudolf Phillip B. Jurado, Government Corporate Counsel, Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (Law '85-'87); Lanee Cui David, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue

(Law '89-'94); Rex Bernardez, Deputy Commissioner, National Dairy Authority (Law '86-'87); Mel John I. Verzosa, Deputy Administrator, National Tobacco Administration (Law '10); Vincent Phillip C. Maronilla, District Collector, Manila International Container Port, Bureau of Customs (Law 1999-2000); Ma. Rhea M. Gregorio, District Collector, Port of Manila, Bureau of Customs, (Law '05); Arthel B. Caronongan, Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Law '86); and Alberto O. Regino, Jr., Chief of Staff to the President, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Law '97).

Last May 17 at Club Filipino, the San Beda Law Alumni Association, found it fitting to honor them with a testimonial dinner reception that would not



**DKT USEC Carlos Calavera with SBCLAA Board of Trustees**



Secretary Antonio Cabitza with SBCLAA Board of Trustees

only celebrate their having been chosen by the President to handle key government positions, but also extended to them all the best wishes as they bring the Filipino nation to even greater peace and prosperity.

It will be recalled that last September 1, 2016, the San Beda Law Alumni Association honored as well with a testimonial dinner, Atty. Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary of the President; Atty. Vitaliano N. Aguirre II, Secretary, Department of Justice; Atty. Arthur P. Tugade, Secretary, Department of Transportation; Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima, Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology; Atty. Alfredo C. Lim, Chief Operating Officer and President PAGCOR; and Atty. Abdullah Mama-o, Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

Together with President Rody Duterte, may all

these Bedans in top executive public positions see their Bedan education as the best weapon that will contribute much to a better Filipino society, give them the courage to aspire to become heroes and saviours, and be the relevant change that this great nation deserves to experience.

May our Almighty Father continue to bless all Bedans in the nation service so that they may prosper in their respective work responsibilities, and protect them at all times from the evils of corruption, terrorism, drugs and other ills of society. We are one with the nation in praying and working for the full realization of Bedan President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's legacy of a changed Filipino society so that it will be one of the highest points in our history as a progressive country. Indeed, it was a gathering of Bedans and friends celebrating this epic achievement where more Bedans are now in the service of the Filipino people.



The Honorees

# Inspire Change in Others

*Speech delivered on the occasion of the Testimonial for Bedan Appointees to the Executive Department*

*Club Filipino, Greenhills San Juan, May 17, 2017*

*by Justice Noel Gimenez Tijam*



Tijam

We, Bedans, take immense pride in our Benedictine education and the values we learned from it. We are bound by a common identity, a common purpose and a common remembrance, which guide and propel us to

achieve our goals as professionals, as leaders, as change-makers, and as men and women of God.

It was more than a hundred years ago that the first Benedictine school in the country was established. It was then called El Colegio de San Beda, located a few blocks away from the Malacanang Palace, a palace which, by the way, presently houses a Bedan President.

For many years, San Beda has consistently produced a steady stream of notable alumni, many of whom are present here tonight. Bedan alumni excel in many fields and have been known Justices of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the lower courts, Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, Members of the Cabinet, Scholars, Members of the Military, Officials of the national and local government, as well as media moguls.

We all know that Bedans excel. To excel, therefore, is no longer the challenge; the challenge for us Bedans is how to excel while being faithful representations of the Benedictine virtues and values. Taking it a step farther, the challenge is how our values as Bedans can be used to effect and inspire change in our nation. Let us all be positive thinkers and constructive doers. The difference between who you are and who you want to be is what you do.

Indeed, the Benedictine values of ora et labora, prayer and work, *dasal at gawa*, may be ancient but certainly not antiquated. These values are more relevant in these daring times when obsession with power, fortune and fame relentlessly consumes.

The core values of prayer and work are meant to go hand in hand. It is therefore no accident that "ora" is embedded in the word "labora." This does not simply mean to pray and then to work. Instead, it means that our work be prayerful and that we do our work in a manner that it becomes a kind of prayer. The question then is, how can our Bedan values effect change?



Justice Tijam with SSCLAA Board of Trustees

St. Benedict himself offers the answer. He instructs, "let no one follow what he thinks useful to himself, but to another." In this manner, our work becomes more than the product of our labor, but ultimately, the giving of ourselves, to the end that "in all things, God may be glorified."

Giving one's self to others is a true mark of leadership, because to lead is to serve. And if leadership is to be genuine, it must serve justice. As Blaise Pascal said, "justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just." Let us continue to be true servants of the Lord. Let us continue to serve others generously. Khalil Gibran once said: "Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need."

Among us tonight are esteemed members of the judiciary, lawyers and public servants who have made it their solemn duty to administer justice.

The legal profession, bound as it is to the pursuit of justice and maintaining the rule of law, is both noble and sacrosanct. As the Supreme Court has consistently impressed upon the members of the Bar, lawyers must adhere to rigid standards of mental fitness, morality and faithful compliance with the rules of the legal profession to continue enjoying the privilege to practice law. Sadly, however, some lawyers have fallen below these standards, and the Supreme Court has accordingly imposed appropriate sanctions on them, to preserve the nobility and sanctity of the legal profession.

The acts and omissions of errant lawyers encompass negligence and conduct that contravenes decency



and morality. Recent jurisprudence has shown the Supreme Court disciplining lawyers for: (a) utter failure to deliver legal services despite receiving an acceptance fee; (b) belatedly filing an appeal before the Secretary of Justice, resulting in the dismissal of a criminal case; (c) withdrawing as counsel without the client's conformity and without filing the proper motion; (d) notarizing a petition for declaration of nullity of marriage without the presence of the petitioner who was then out of the country; (e) forum-shopping committed after the lawyer filed a petition for annulment of her marriage, while her motion to dismiss a prior petition for declaration of nullity of the same marriage was still pending, without disclosing the pendency of the earlier petition and both petitions having been based on the same set of facts and circumstances; (f) sexually harassing a staff member and habitually watching pornographic materials in the lawyer's office-issued laptop while inside the government office premises, during office hours, and with the knowledge and full view of his staff; and (g) siring a child with a woman other than the lawyer's legitimate wife, which was not meted the extreme penalty of disbarment because the act complained of took place before the respondent became a lawyer.

The Supreme Court, however, imposed the ultimate penalty of disbarment when a particular lawyer delayed and refused to comply with the Supreme Court's decision rendered in a previously decided administrative case, which included a directive to return money which the lawyer deceived people into paying. The same penalty was meted against another lawyer for pretending to be the counsel for the wife in a case for declaration of nullity of marriage, and using said wife's forged signature in the petition, when she was, in fact, engaged as counsel by the husband. Disbarment was also unsurprisingly imposed when a lawyer was found to have participated in the planning and execution of the hi-jacking of a delivery van loaded with cellular phones worth over a million pesos, perpetrated with the use of a falsified mission order from the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) found in

his possession.

Two weeks ago, it was announced that 3,747 examinees passed the bar examination. The lawyer's oath these successful examinees will take on May 22 will include an express commitment to delay no man for money or malice. Time will tell if this new breed of lawyers will abide by that promise, and contribute to the swift dispensation of justice.

The speedy disposition of cases is both a constitutional fiat and a moral obligation, for as the adage goes, justice delayed is justice denied.

The Supreme Court, by virtue of its rule-making power under the Constitution, have drafted new rules aimed at giving flesh to the constitutional right to speedy disposition of cases, and to the constitutional principle that adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty.

First, the Revised Guidelines for Continuous Trial of Criminal Cases (Administrative Matter No. 15-06-10-SC). Published on May 7, 2017 and aimed at unclogging court dockets, the Guidelines impose more stringent requirements in prosecuting criminal cases.

For instance, the Guidelines require that prohibited motions, therein enumerated, and unmeritorious motions, are to be dismissed outright, while meritorious motions must be resolved within a specified non-extendible period. Motions for postponement are prohibited, except only when the motion is based on acts of God, force majeure, or the physical inability of the witness to appear and testify.

Furthermore, the head of the prosecution office is required to issue in favor of the private prosecutor a written authority to try the case even in the absence of a public prosecutor. Newly filed cases involving offenses based on the same facts or forming part of



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a series of offenses of similar character, when accompanied by the prosecution's motion for consolidation, shall be raffled to only one court. The Pre-trial Order shall be immediately served on the parties and counsel on the day of the pre-trial. If the accused pleads guilty to the crime charged, judgment shall be immediately rendered, except in cases involving capital punishment. Moreover, unless settlement was already reached at the pre-trial or preliminary conference, certain criminal cases are to be referred to mediation on the civil liability, including BP 22 cases, theft, estafa committed with unfaithfulness or abuse of confidence under Article 315 (1) of the Revised Penal Code (RPC), criminal negligence under Title 14 of the RPC, and intellectual property rights cases. The thirty (30)-day mediation period (from referral to mediation) is non-extendible.

The Guidelines also specify non-extendible periods to resolve a petition for bail, demurrer to evidence, motion for reconsideration and motion for new trial. It provides that presentation of the evidence in chief will not be suspended because of the pendency of a petition for bail, and further requires that evidence be offered orally on the same day after the presentation of the last witness, the court to rule thereon in open court. The Guidelines also allow the presentation of testimonial evidence through judicial affidavits under certain conditions.

The rigid application of these Guidelines will certainly make the wheels of justice run smoothly without being sidetracked by unreasonable delays.

Second, the Proposed Rule on Community Legal Aid Service for New Lawyers, also known as "Community Legal Aid Service Rule" (CLASeR), has been revised as of May 3, 2017. It applies to new lawyers who will sign the Roll of Attorneys starting January 1, 2018.

The CLASeR requires that new lawyers must render 176 hours of free legal aid services to indigent and

pauper clients within the first year of their admission to the bar, counted from the time they signed the Roll of Attorneys. Even government lawyers, with the exception of PAO lawyers or unless exempted, are required to render such free legal aid services provided it will not conflict with their official functions or breach the limitations on their law practice under the law.

Compliance with the community legal aid service is within one (1) year from the date new lawyers sign the Roll of Attorneys, which may be extended upon a petition filed with the Office of the Bar Confidant, and approved by the Chief Justice. Those who take the requirement for granted may be subject to disciplinary action.

The CLASeR will give lawyers an opportunity to awaken their spirit of volunteerism, an innate Filipino trait. Imagine, for a while, if each one of us would simply go out of our way, take an extra mile and carved a little time in our hectic schedule in order to extend legal assistance to the poor and tackle their legal concerns without delay, without expecting anything in return. Our social conscience would surely be at rest even for just one soul that has benefited from our legal advice. The willingness to help the unlettered men may well be a thankless task, but the fraternal concern for the needy is not shouldered by the government alone. All individuals, particularly lawyers, must participate in this endeavor.

These Guidelines and Rules were crafted in the hope that the overwhelming number of cases now pending before the courts will be resolved more speedily to the end that justice is served. However, from the perspective of someone who has been in the bench for a good number of years, I believe that justice, no matter how ideal and philosophical it might be, can be dispensed, if only lawyers would observe some of these practical tips:

1. If it can be helped, do not file cases. In an article posted by then Director General of the NSCR, Jose Ramon Albert, from 2005 to 2010, lower courts were continuously confronted with heavy volume of caseload, with an annual average of 1,059,484 cases or equivalent to an average of around 4,221 cases per working day. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, this means a judge would have an insane average annual workload of 644 cases. Meanwhile, the number of courts and judges do not increase in a similar rate. As lawyers, resist the urge to bring every matter immediately to the courts. Alternative modes of dispute resolution deserve to become the norm instead of being an "alternative." It's quicker and less expensive compared to court

litigation, and most of the time results in a "win-win" situation, especially for private counsel who can immediately send bills to their clients. As Abraham Lincoln, the Great American and a lawyer once advised, "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser — in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough."

2. **Ready, set, prepare.** The operative word here being "Prepare." Courts are flooded with cases ranging from 10 to 100 on a daily basis and it is simply unfair to expect that the court would have photographic memory of the details and status of each case before it. Courts are burdened to fast-track disposal of cases without depriving parties their day in court. It becomes then incumbent upon lawyers to ASSIST judges in making each second count by providing ACCURATE and RELEVANT INFORMATION on the facts and the law of the case. If you need to argue on a motion or orally present your case before the court, do not waste its time by repeating verbatim the contents of your pleading. Be organized. Read and review your pleadings, exhibits and evidence. Take the time to prepare well. ILLUMINATE the COURT, do not confuse it.
3. **Focus on the merits of the case.** Lawyers do not gain prominence by their creativity in abusing or even inventing motions. Motion to transfer venue, motion to reset, motion to cite adverse party in contempt, motion to set aside orders, motion to inhibit the judge, etc., can create the appearance of a passionate lawyer, but in most instances, they do not truly serve the interests of the client. They are merely smokescreens and side shows which only distract the court from focusing on the legal and factual issues presented in the case. In a similar way, not every meritless motion deserves a 50-page response.
4. **Promote legal literacy.** The hope is to enable our people to articulate their rights and at the same time, be aware of ways to settle conflicts or controversies other than resorting to a case in court. Lawyers, as learned men in the law, must be able to share, especially with the marginalized, a working legal knowledge on topics that are of utmost use to a wider chunk of the population, such as labor law, land registration and family law.
5. **Defend, protect and redeem.** Administration of justice requires a judicial system whose authority is respected by its litigants. Confidence of the people in the system, however, is largely dependent on perception.

Unfortunately, ethical and professional considerations deprive our courts with the platform of defending themselves from undue and disrespectful accusations, particularly those posted in the social media. Also, there has yet to be safeguards installed in social media that verify facts or filter false or fake information. It is, thus, incumbent for lawyers, to be vigilant in preserving the integrity of the judicial system. More than perpetuating public frustration on the delay and other common complaints against the judicial system, reforms should likewise be explained and communicated to the general public.

In closing, I hope that as lawyers, we do not forget the oft-repeated principle that we are all indispensable partners of the court in the sacred task of administering justice; that you are, like the court itself, an instrument to advance the ends of justice, an instrument to bring about positive change.

Continue to be ethical, to be faithful to the tenets of the Law, the Constitution and the norms of morality. Be faithful to God. As St. Columbanes once said: "Nothing is sweeter than the calm of conscience, nothing is safer than purity of soul, yet no one can bestow this on himself because it is properly the gift of God's grace."

Guided by the Benedictine virtues instilled in us not long ago, let us inspire change in others, for we cannot uplift an entire nation on our own. One of the key traits of a successful leader is the ability to lead by example. This we can accomplish in our respective offices, units and departments. Before we know it, change is no longer coming, change has arrived. Ernest Hemingway once said: "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow men. True nobility is being superior to your former self. Let us be noble, at all times, in our intentions; decent in our actions."



# SALUTING BEDANS APPOINTED IN THE JUDICIARY

The SBC Law Alumni Association tendered a Testimonial Dinner Reception in honor of Bedan Law Alumni recently appointed in the Judiciary this was held last July 27 at Club Filipino. Honorees included: Associated Samuel R. Martires, Associate Justice Noel G. Tijam, Associate Justice Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega, Associate Justice Bernelito Fernandez, Associate Justice Lorifel L. Pahimna, DOJ Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre, II, Judge Toribio E. Ilao, Jr., and Congressman Reynaldo V. Umali.

Retired Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban was Guest of Honor and Speaker while various testimonials about the honorees were delivered by: Judge Winlove M. Dumayas for Justice Samuel R. Martires; Justice Francisco P. Acosta for Justice Noel G. Tijam; Judge Marilou D. Runes-Tamang for Justice Lorifel L. Pahimna; Justice Amparo Cabotaje-Tang for Justice Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega, Justice Bernelito R. Fernandez and Justice Lorifel L. Pahimna;



Tijam



Martires



The Honorees with the SBCLAA Board of Trustees



**DOJ Justice Secretary VI. Aguirre with SBCLAA Board of Trustees**



**Atty. Jeremy Z. Parulan for Congressman Reynaldo V. Umali; Atty. Eduardo E. Francisco for Judge Toribio E. Ilaos, Jr.; and Judge Alberto F. Serrano for DOJ Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre, II.**

**The evening's gathering was an expression of moral support and prayers by fellow Bedans as these members of the judiciary assiduously and competently fulfil their various responsibilities.**

**We wish them well as they fulfil the difficult but challenging tasks and trusted to them by our Filipino people.**



**Sandiganbayan PJ Amparo Cabotaje-Tang with honoree Justice Tess Arcaga and husband, SC Justice Tess de Castro and SBCLAA Board of Trustees**



*Atty. Avelino Cruz*

## Bedan Justices steeped in Benedictine philosophy and principles

*Welcome Remarks delivered by Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, SBLAA Chairman, during the Testimonial Reception in honor of Bedan Law Alumni Appointed in the Judiciary Thursday, July 27, 2017, Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino*

A most cordial welcome to all alumni and guests to this Testimonial Reception.

Let me dwell first with the new Bedan Supreme Court Justices. In the

first decade of our Law school, it used to be that the icons in the Supreme Court we look up to as Bedans were our revered professor, Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion and the legendary Justice Gregorio Perfecto. They were Bedans but UST Law graduates as there was no San Beda Law School during their time. In fact, our Founding Dean, Feliciano Ledesma was himself, a UST graduate.

More than 30 years later, as distinguished graduates of our Law school joined the Judiciary, the rolls of the Supreme Court began to bear the names of outstanding Bedan lawyers. Beginning with Bedans Florenz Regalado ('54) in 1986, Justo Torres ('53) in 1996, Antonio Martinez ('53) in 1997, Romeo Callejo ('61) in 2002, Antonio Eduardo Nachura ('67) in 2007, Jose C. Mendoza ('71) in 2010, Bienvenido L. Reyes ('71) in 2011, and finally Bedans Noel G. Tijam ('71) and Samuel R. Martires ('75), our distinguished honorees for tonight. It is worth noting that newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Andres Reyes, Jr. went to grade school in San Beda until he was transferred to Lourdes School when his Dad, then Judge Andres Reyes who drove him to school, was assigned to the CFI of Pasig. That makes it three Bedans in a row, 2 Bedan Law alumni, one Bedan in the latest Supreme Court appointments. In the NCAA, this is called 3-peat. Who knows, more to come later? Not to forget, in 2011, another outstanding Bedan, Rudy Robles, was nominated by the JBC to the Supreme Court and was in the final short, short list of two nominees, considered by then President Aquino.

There were, of course, other Bedans who, in 1986, were offered by Cory Aquino but had politely declined elevation to the Court. They were Renato dela Fuente, who the late Bedan Speaker Mitra recommended but who chose to remain with Ayala Corporation; Rene Saguisag, who decided to become spokesman for President Cory; and another



*C.J. Panganiban, DOJ Sec. Aguirre and Atty. Cruz*



*SBLAA Pres. Atty. Cruz, Justice Acosta, Chief City Prosecutor Lee and DOJ Sec. Aguirre*

Bedan who preferred the then position of Deputy Prime Minister of then Vice President & Prime Minister Doy Laurel. Give you two guesses who this Bedan was.

Proudly, all Bedans who served in the Supreme Court did so honorably as distinguished public servants, with not a hint of scandal or irregularity. Let me just reiterate however: with great authority comes great responsibility especially for those who sit in the highest Court of the land. The Supreme Court today must confront formidable challenges. Let me name just two.

First and foremost, defending and preserving the Rule of Law in its administration of justice. How has our country measured in the World Justice Project (WJP) annual report, the world's leading source for original data on how the Rule of Law is



**SBCCLAA Chair Atty. Avo Cruz with SBCCLAA Exec. Director Dr. Aljar**

experienced worldwide? The 2016 index placed the Philippines' Rule of Law performance at a far no. 70 out of 113 countries, and 12 out of 15 in the East Asia and Pacific Region. The index is not for this year but for several years before President Duterte, with the last report coming out in 2016. The trend seems to be a decline for the Philippines' performance during the last few years. In the index, the following factors were considered: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

My understanding is that the first one, Constraints on Government Powers appeared to have weighed heavily against the Philippines' performance. Let me just paraphrase Mr. Justice Brandeis of the US Supreme Court who admonished that the Rule of Law must be followed always. Neither private citizens nor government officers can be law breakers. But especially he says and I quote "where government itself becomes law breaker, that breeds contempt for rule of law and invites every man to become a law unto himself".

Second, the Courts must grapple with the urgent need to re-energize the pace of how wheels of justice turn. A recent study, according to Chief Justice Sereno, produced an inventory of 33,000 cases in Quezon City alone. To its credit, the Supreme Court has initiated a plethora of programs to decongest the Courts and managed to meet the target of 30% reduction. New rules on small claims resulted in 37% disposition and the recently introduced continuous trial system in the rules of procedure should alleviate the dockets.

There is no silver bullet however thru procedural reforms. There's just too many caes awaiting adjudication. The Courts must solve unacceptable problem of proverbial law's delay that translates to

justice denied. And many of these cases just have to be resolved with finality without moving up to the highest court. The ball is in the hands of our Supreme Court. Nothing less than a hard second look at the Court's very jurisdiction which was defined and expanded in Section 1, Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution, (remember, "abuse of discretion" by any agency or institution of government) is needed to curb and restrain this crowded scope that threatens like a quagmire. Thus, I submit a selfless rethinking to its very own jurisdiction is in order for the members of the Supreme Court, including of course its new Bedan recruits.

On this quests, as in all other cases, our Bedan Justices steeped in Benedictine philosophy and principles, should answer to our Law School's Mission Call articulated by our Founding Dean Feliciano Ledesma: "to produce good Christian and highly principled lawyers, mentally and spiritually equipped to take their places among real apostles of justice".

*The Benedictine motto: "Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus". That In All Things God May Be Glorified*



**Supreme Court Justice Tena Leonardo-de Castro and SBCCLAA Chairman Atty. Avo Cruz**



**SBCCLAA Chairman Atty. Avo Cruz and Mrs. Helen Cruz**

# A Testimonial to Worthy San Beda Alumni

*Testimonial for Justices Samuel R. Martires and Noel G. Tijam held on July 27, 2017 at the Club Filipino, San Juan City, sponsored by the San Beda Law Alumni Association.*

*by: Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban*



Chief Justice Panganiban

At the outset, let me thank the Chairman of the San Beda Law Alumni Association, Atty. Ave V. Cruz, for inviting me to deliver this testimonial in honor of the several San Beda Alumni who were recently conscripted into the judicial service of the Republic led by the two new members of the Supreme Court, Justices Samuel R. Martires and Noel G. Tijam, and Sandiganbayan Justices

María Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega, Bernellito R. Fernandez and Lorifel L. Pahinma, as well as the members of the Judicial and Bar Council composed of Justice Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre II, Judge Toribio E. Ilaó and Congressman Reynaldo V. Umali.

Even before Bedan President Rodrigo Roa Duterte thought of declaring Martial Law in Mindanao, Ave had already been enjoying the perks of martial rule because he had already been installed as the permanent and impeachment-proof chairman for life of the San Beda Law Alumni Association.

## Honorary Bedan

But I am not complaining. I should really be the last person to protest his reign for life because I was unanimously chosen an honorary member of the San Beda Law Alumni Association in 2006 when I was still the incumbent Chief Justice because of his skillful maneuvers in not allowing any objections or negative votes. That is why I was chosen by roaring acclamation, not by quiet balloting.

Anyway, maraming salamat Ave. Truth to tell, let me confess that I have always wanted to be a Bedan since I was - over 6 decades ago - an impoverished, struggling student at the Mapa High School, which was, at that time, housed in a two-story wooden structure (It is now in a 4-story concrete building) opposite San Beda here in Mendiola. Much later on, as I was preparing to enter law school proper, papunta na po ako sa San Beda para sana mag-enroll buhat sa aming maliit na inuupahang apartment sa Cataluña Street sa Sampaloc, Manila. Kaya lang nataplok po



ako nuong nasa tapat na ako ng Far Eastern University. Nakita po ako at inakay ni Dean Jovito R. Salonga at dinala ako sa FEU Institute of Law. Kaya nga sa FEU na lang ako nag-aral at nagtapos ng abogasya.

But my impossible dream of being a Bedan was fulfilled when Ave proclaimed me your honorary member. To reciprocate his kindness, my dream now for San Beda is to have its home-grown Chief Justice. San Beda produced several bar toppers, eminent law practitioners and scholarly academicians, as well as esteemed Supreme Court and appellate court justices, and trial judges. But it has not produced its own Chief Justice.

## "CJs" Ave and Bodjie

To be honest, that is the fault of Ave because he could have been the longest-serving Chief Justice of our country had he accepted the offer of President Cory



CJ Artemio Panganiban and Atty. Ave Cruz



*Fr. Prior Chancellor Refanillo Abras, Justice Tess Arcega and Dr. Alajar*



*Justice Palmones, Judge Palmones and Judge Wagan*

Aquino to join the Supreme Court in 1986. But he chose to place his bets on then Prime Minister Salvador Laurel under whom he became the Deputy Prime Minister. However, his stint was short-lived because our 1987 Constitution instituted the presidential system of government and abolished the positions of prime minister and deputy prime minister.

Had Ave agreed to join the Supreme Court in 1986, he would have been ripe for the highest judicial post after Chief Justice Andres Narvasa retired in 1998. And there would have been no Chief Justices Hilario G. Davide Jr., Artemio V. Panganiban and Reynato S. Puno because he would have reigned until he reached 70 years on December 17, 2010 when all three of us would have retired.

In thanksgiving for giving me the chance to lead our judiciary, I campaigned robustly for him to become President of the Asean Law Association, which he attained in February 2016. As ALA President, he now lords it over several incumbent Asean Chief Justices, including those from Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, who are his vice presidents. But his greatest achievement is not in law, or in music, or in public service. Not even in ALA. In my humble opinion, his greatest achievement is

convincing Helen to become his wife more than 50 years ago.

Another Red Lion to be faulted for not having a "native" Bedan Chief Justice is Justice Bodgie Reyes who has just retired from the Supreme Court. After Chief Justice Renato C. Corona was impeached and removed from office, President Noynoy Aquino personally telephoned Justice Bodgie and offered to name him Chief Justice. But Justice Bodgie immediately and respectfully declined. Had he accepted the offer, San Beda would have had its first native Chief Justice.

### Justice Samuel R. Martires

So much for Ave and Bodjie. Let me now go to my primary duty of hailing our honorees. I wrote a full column in the Inquirer on March 12, 2017 on Justice Sammy and I will no longer repeat it now. Let me just reiterate one point in that article answering criticisms that he was chosen by President Duterte out of sheer gratitude for acquitting him in a criminal case. I personally read *People vs Duterte* which he wrote on April 14, 2011, with the concurrence of Justices Francisco Villaruz and Alex Quiroz.



*Dr. Alajar, Judge Palmones, Atty. Gaboohan, Fr. Prior Abras, Justice Martires, Justice Arcega and Judge Wagan*





I fully agree that the case should be, as it was, dismissed outright for lack of probable cause. Then Davao Mayor Duterte could not have been held liable for demolishing a canal cover that caused massive flooding and that was, in the first place, built without the proper permits. Moreover, he decided the case against the perceived wishes of the then mighty speaker of the House of Representatives, Prospero Nograles, who at that time belonged to the opposite political camp. If at all, the decision showed that Justice Sammy had the guts to do what was correct and proper regardless of the wishes of ruling political gods.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all know that Justice Sammy is a career jurist who is well-qualified to sit in the highest court. What many of us may not know is that he initially wanted to be a psychiatrist. After finding out that he could not be a psychiatrist without being first a doctor of medicine, he veered his sight to the priesthood. In his junior year in high school, he asked his Mom's permission to enter the Franciscan order but his widowed mother discouraged him because she could not bear being away from him, as her only child, when he, as a priest, was on faraway mission.

And so, as an obedient son, he abandoned his dream to be a priest and pursued his other dream to be a lawyer, to the delight of his girlfriend Cecilia who became his loving wife. His mother also advised him to enroll in San Beda because two of his father's cousins were Benedictine priests.

Simple and humble at heart, his favorite snacks are hopia and Skyflakes crackers. He loves to listen to ballads and can crack a tune on karaoke with his favorite kundiman, "Babalik Ka Rin," or with Tony Bennett's "Who Can I Turn To." His most prized possession is a rosary he bought in Rome, which he held in his hands as he was being interviewed by the Judicial and Bar Council.

Justice Sammy's stint in the Supreme Court is regrettably short as he would retire on January 2, 2019 when he turns 70. But he will make up for that short term by, to quote in part what he told the JBC during his interview, helping the Court solve what to him are the three main problems of the judiciary: "corruption... perceived interference of government officials... and trial by publicity by media."

**Justice Noel G. Tijam**



Let me now say a few words about our second honoree, Justice Noel G. Tijam who is well known to all of us and to the judicial public because he had been nominated to the Supreme Court by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) no less than four times, on Oct. 5, 2009, Nov. 29, 2009, July 28, 2010 and Dec. 9, 2011.

He has served the judiciary for almost a quarter of a century: in the Court of Appeals (2003-2017) and in the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City (1994 to 2003). He finished his law degree cum laude and as salutatorian of the San Beda College law class of 1971. President Duterte was his batch mate and Justice Secretary Vito Aguirre, his valedictorian. Now 68, he will retire in less than two years, on Jan. 5, 2019.

Qualified as he may be, critics question (1) his short stint, and (2) his independence due to his closeness to the President. In a column I wrote on March 19, 2016, I defended him by answering these two items directly and pointedly. Like in the case of Justice Sammy, I will no longer repeat my column which I assume you have read. Suffice it to say that, to justify his short stint, Justice Noel has promised during his JBC interview to dispose of 1,000 cases during his term. Now, that is a Herculean task that not many justices with terms longer than his could do. But being a Bedan who honors his word, he will, I am sure, deliver on his commitment and show by



**The honorees with the SBCLAA Board of Trustees**

example, how to speed up the delivery of justice in our country.

Justice Noel is an "accidental" Bedan. He initially wanted to enroll at the University of the East or at the University of Santo Tomas. But the enrollment queue was kilometric in those schools. So, at the suggestion of an auntie who had a son in the Benedictine community, he enrolled into the best law school in the Philippines... according to the SBCLAA Association President, retired Justice Francisco P. Acosta... and according to all of us in this hall tonight!

Like Justice Sammy, law was not the initial ambition of Justice Noel. His first ambition was to be a diplomat. But he found law to be "more challenging and exciting." And like Justice Sammy, he is very spiritual. He credits everything that he was, that he is and that he will ever be to the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

### **Constitutional Requirements**

Our other honorees, particularly the new Sandiganbayan justices are all eminently qualified, having been vetted very strictly by the Judicial and Bar Council. As you may know, I, as a retired Chief Justice, am a JBC consultant. I was present when the JBC voted on them and I know they were scrutinized minutely and passed the screening triumphantly.

To all of them, let me just say that, as we all are aware, jurists are required by the Constitution to be of "proven competence, integrity, probity and independence." During my stint in the Court, I renamed these qualities as the four "ins" of a good judge - "Integrity, Independence, Industry and Intelligence." Of these four, independence is the most important.

Moreover, magistrates are expected to be impervious to what I call the plague of "ships:" kinship, relationship, friendship and fellowship. They owe allegiance only to the Constitution and the law.

As my little message for them, permit me to quote from my book "Leadership by Example," published by the Supreme Court in 1999, thus, "something does happen when (magistrates) don the black robes of this Court. All at once, new appointees feel a new beginning. Immediately, they realize the god-like finality of their words and actions, for their decisions, whether right or wrong, are not reviewed, modified or reversed by any other agency of government. Instead, they are immortalized in books to be perused, criticized, damned or acclaimed many years after they have passed from this world."

Our honorees from the JBC, Secretary Vit, Judge Ted and Cong Rey, may you continue to serve with distinction and continue vetting candidates the judiciary with the passion and dedication as you displayed when you chose our new Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan justices.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, let me ask you to rise, raise your glasses and join me toasting and wishing success to our San Beda honorees. May their tribe increase and may they continue embodying the four constitutional desiderata: proven competence, integrity, probity and independence, and may they continue to be impervious to the plague of the four ships: kinship, relationship, friendship and fellowship. Cheers and Mabuhay.

Maraming salamat po.



**Atty. Damayan**

# Honoring JUSTICE SAMUEL R. MARTIRES (Law '75)

*by: Hon. Winlove M. Damayas (Law '75)*

We are all gathered this evening to honor the newly appointed Bedans in the Judiciary and there are many of them. Of course as a Bedan, I wish and pray that more Bedans will be appointed not only in the Judiciary but also in the executive

department of government. Hopefully this occasion shall not be the last.

As for me, I am here on the stage to deliver a speech about one of our honorees, a classmate of mine, a very dear friend and he also happens to be my ninong in my civil wedding on December 8, 1975 solemnized by our professor Justice Jorge Cogula. As you can see, my fellow Bedans believe na ako sa classmate ko na ito noon pa at hanggang ngayon.

San Beda is enormously endowed with men and women willing and ready to serve our country - These awardees are at the fore front of this breed. One of them is my classmate and a dear friend, Justice Samuel R. Martirez.

At first I was hesitant and reluctant to give in to

his request that I be the one to deliver a speech for him thinking all along that I will be placed in the midst of brilliant men and women who are considered legal luminaries in their own right. Since the request came like a resolution from the Honorable Supreme Court with Justice Samuel Martinez as ponente, who am I to resist, who am I to defy especially so the request was accompanied by the magic word "pare".

So I texted him and asked him, what will I say pare, he texted back - "pare, tell them how we met, na magaling ka sa billiards pero pag may pusta talo na kita, na nagtutulungan tayo nina pareng Ping Bartolome and pareng Rey Tabayoyong. Bahala ka na pare." End of text. I replied I will comply.

Justice Sammy as stated earlier was my classmate in San Beda belonging to Class 75. As he was then new in San Beda, We, Atty. Ping

Bartolome, Atty. Rey Tabayoyong and myself befriended him and we were his constant companions. The four of us have a common denominator - We love to play billiards to relieve ourselves of the tensions and the stresses that come along with our studies. Like ordinary students, we sometimes cut-classes when one of us is not ready to recite and we just cross the



**Justice Samuel Martires with the SBCLAA Board of Trustees**



street of Mendiola and play billiards. Justice Sammy is a so so billiards player when there is no bet or taya such as one round of softdrinks and banana- cue. He becomes unbeatable however, when a bet is made. I cannot help but smile every time I remember those happy moments with him. That is Justice Sammy, when the states are high, he levels up and makes it a point to win.

Never in our wildest dream did we imagine that both of us will join the judiciary.

Justice Sammy joined the bench as RTC Judge of Branch 32 Agoo, La Union in July, 2006. He would go down from Bagulo City in the early morning and return back home to Bagulo after office hours just so he could be with his beloved wife Cecil and his family. This was his routine for six (6) years.

As RTC Judge, he rendered swift and impartial justice through well written and thorough decisions. Hence, not long after he reaped the fruits of his integrity, industry and competency, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan, a bigger arena to conquer.

In his stint in the Sandiganbayan, he uphold the law regardless of public clamour and the personalities involved. This can be gleaned in his ponencias one of which is the case that upheld the plea bargaining agreement struck by former military comptroller Major General Carlos Garcia and the Ombudsman. He likewise penned the case involving the Binondo Central Bank scam.

His character as a maglstate can be capsulized in one of his decisions and I quote

"But as I had said - that this Court should not be influenced by any king or president. We should

only rely and make our own decision pursuant to the evidence presented and the applicable law."

"I insisted on what is right and I didn't care what Malacanang would do to us."

It was therefore inevitable, that with his track record, he would be destined to reach the zenith of his career that of being an Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court. He was appointed to this position on March 6, 2017 by the King of all King Lions, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte becoming the 175th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Now my classmate you are now in the hallowed grounds of the Supreme Court. Your decisions will now be cited as jurisprudence and shall form part of the law of the land.

As you go along, continue to be prayerful as you have always been. In your interview at the JBC you answered in one of the questions asked of you, that you believe in miracles. Your appointment to the Supreme Court is definitely not a miracle, you earned it, you deserved it and it is providential. God has destined you to be one of the true instrument in the dispensation of justice here on earth. Your unsullied reputation will serve as your armour as you perform your duties. San Beda has prepared you for this job. Your faith in God and love of the truth without any doubt will give more honor and fame to you, to your family, to us your classmates and to San Beda your beloved Alma Matter.

Again Congratulations to you my beloved friend. We are greatly honored with your promotion. We wish you good sailing and fair weather as you face the new challenges that come with your new job.



# Justice Noel G. Tijam's Legacy

*(Testimonial for Justice Noel G. Tijam Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, as Speaker during the Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Bedans Appointed in Judiciary, July 17, 2017)*

*by: Justice Francisco P. Acosta, Law '71*



Justice Acosta

Justice Noel Tijam maybe the latest appointee to the Supreme Court but his career in the judiciary has spanned for 23 years; 9 years as RTC Judge and 14 years as Court of Appeals Justice.

Justice Noel G. Tijam was born on January 5, 1949 in San Miguel, Manila. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from San Beda College in 1967, with a degree in Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy and Political Science.

His integrity, humility and remarkable analytical skills were fully recognized here in San Beda Law School where he graduated as cum laude and Class Salutatorian. He passed the Bar Examinations of 1971 at the age 22.

Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he had a distinguished legal career, both serving in the public and private sector. Justice Tijam served as Legal Consultant at the Philippine Senate representing Senator Victor Ziga. He was Assistant Vice President and Deputy Corporate Secretary of the GSIS, and became Legal Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Manila Hotel Corporation and the Westin Philippine Plaza, and a Board Director of Comsavings Bank.

In 1994, he began his career in public service as the Presiding Judge of the RTC of Quezon City, Branch 221 and moved on to the appellate court in 2003. During his stay in the lower courts, Justice Tijam was passionately involved in efforts to improve the administration of justice. He served as President of the Quezon City RTC Judges Association. In the Court of Appeals, Justice Tijam was the Chief of the Court of Appeals Journal while serving, at the same time, as a member of the Committee on Rules which studies the amendments to and revisions of the Internal Rules of the Court of Appeals (IRCA). He was also a member of the sub-committee on the Revision of the Rules on Special Proceedings, and the



Justice Tijam

Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Task Force on Information and Wallsheets, both created by the Supreme Court. He represented the Court of Appeals at the World Jurist Conference on economic development, alternative dispute resolution and democracy-building, in Kiev, Ukraine, in September 2004. He was one of the 12 Justices of the Court of Appeals invited to participate in the 2007 National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances convened by the Supreme Court.

Throughout his career, Justice Tijam's competence and admirable passion for law were not left unnoticed as he was given recognition by different organizations. He was a finalist in the most outstanding Regional Trial Court Judges Award in 1999 given by the Foundation for Judicial Excellence. He was a recipient of the Most Outstanding JAYCEE Award from the Philippine Jaycees, and of the 1997 Junior Chamber International Senatorship Award. One distinct recognition, given on October 20, 2007 by the JCI Senate Philippines, is a Golden Award as Most Outstanding JCI Senator in the Philippines in the Field of Law. On April 26-29, 2016, he attended the Southeast Asian Judicial Workshop on Cybercrime in Bangkok, Thailand as one of the four justices that composed the delegation of the Court of Appeals. On June 28, 2016, he was named by the Philippine Jaycee Senate Foundation, Inc. as a Joaquin "Jake" Gonzales Fellow, in appreciation of his tangible and significant assistance in furthering and promoting the tenet of the Jaycee Creed that "Service to humanity is the best work of life".



**Justice Tijam, DOJ Sec. Aguirre, Justice Acosta and Insurance Commissioner Dennis Fara**

Justice Tijam's commitment to continuously improve the law and administration of justice was also evident in his career as part of the academe. Not many of you may know, but Justice Tijam was already a teacher even before he graduated from this institution. At the young age of 20, while earning his Bachelor of Laws degree on full scholarship, Justice Tijam was already an instructor at the Philippine School of Business Administration. This was also where he met his very supportive and loving wife, Cynthia. When he entered the judiciary, he then became a lecturer at the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), Supreme Court, assigned to the Remedial Law Department. He lectures on the subjects Pre-trial and Trial Skills, Searches & Seizures, Legal Ethics, Oral Advocacy, Legal Writing and Remedial Law, in various seminars organized by the PHILJA, the U.P. Law Center, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and several law firms under their Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Program (MCLE). Once, he was invited by a group of lawyers based in San Francisco, California, USA, to give a lecture in the MCLE conducted by the IBP (California Chapter) in San Francisco, California, USA.

For some of the younger lawyers here today, you might have personally "experienced" Justice Tijam's unsullied knowledge of the law through the Bar Examinations. Just last year, in 2016, where an unprecedented number of examiners passed the bar, Justice Tijam served as the examiner for Remedial Law. In 2009, he was the examiner for Legal Ethics, together with Justice Sam Martires.

For his known skill and zeal as an effective and competent speaker, Justice Tijam has been consistently invited to speak on various topics by

a number of organizations and associations. He was a Resource Speaker in the symposium, entitled, "Excellence In Public Service" conducted by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERC) on November 23, 2009, held at Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Ave., Pasig City; and, as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the 46th Anniversary Celebration of the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines, Inc., held at the Century Park Hotel on December 17, 2009.

He was one of the 8 Justices of the Court of Appeals designated to act as group facilitators on the Supreme Court sponsored forum on Increasing Access to Justice last July 1, 2008 to benefit the poor, cultural minorities and marginalized sectors. He was the Chairman of the Panel of Assessors for candidates for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD.) on Legal Education at the Cagayan State University, in collaboration with the San Beda School of Law, on April 6, 2010. On October 7, 2010, he was among the selected Court of Appeals Justices who attended the PHILJA-sponsored Roundtable Discussion on Court Leadership: Judicial Reform and Improving Judicial Administration held at the Makati Shangrila. He was chosen as a "Reactor" on the topic "Simplifying and Improving the Litigation Process" during the 13th IBP Convention of Lawyers held in Subic, Zambales, on April 7-9, 2011.

Recently, he attended a Workshop on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization of the United Nations in London on June 21 to 25, 2017. During the said workshop, he gave a short presentation on the protection of seafarer's rights in the Philippines. The workshop is part of the celebration of the International Day of the





Seafarers. He sat in a panel composed of distinguished magistrates from different countries.

Justice Tiam's legacy rests primarily on the decisions he penned, and in cases where he participated in. Some of the noteworthy cases he decided in the Court of Appeals were *Drugstores Asso. of the Philippines, et. al. vs. National Council On Disability Affairs (2010)*, where he upheld the constitutionality of Section 32, Republic Act No. 7277 (otherwise known as The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons), as amended by RA No. 9442, granting 20% discount on the purchased medicines of the persons with disability (PWD). Also, when one of the incidents in the Maguindanao massacre was brought before him, Justice Tiam upheld the DOJ's findings of probable cause resulting in the indictment of Petitioners Datu Andal Ampatuan and Datu Zaldy "Puti" U. Ampatuan as two of the alleged perpetrators of the Maguindanao massacre (*Datu Andal Ampatuan, Sr. vs. Secretary of Justice, et al., CA-G.R. SP No. 113838, promulgated on January 31, 2011; Datu Zaldy "PUTI" U. Ampatuan vs. Hon. Secretary of Justice - Acting Secretary Of*

Justice Alberto C. AGRA, et al., CA-G.R. SP NO. 114619, promulgated on November 8, 2011).

Justice Tiam also penned the decision in the consolidated petitions of the so-called "midnight appointees" where he declared unconstitutional more than 600 midnight appointments of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and where he upheld the appointments made by former President Aquino through Executive Order No. 2. He ratiocinated that, in requiring the acceptance of the appointment, the taking of an oath and the discharge of the duties of the office to be done prior to the election ban, President Aquino merely relied on considerations of practicality and logic. (*Venturanza vs. President; Tamondong vs. Ochoa; Atty. Planas vs. Ochoa; Atty. Garafil vs. Office of the President; Lucman vs. Ochoa, August 31, 2012*)

In 2015, in the dispute between Camp John Hay Development Corporation and BCDA (*CJH Development v. Dulay, CA-G.R.SP NO. 140422 and CA-G.R. SP NO., 140490 July 30, 2015*), Justice Tiam upheld the rights of the property owners who stood to lose their properties amidst the execution of an arbitral award between Camp John Hay Development Corporation and BCDA. Recognizing the advantages of alternative modes of dispute resolution, Justice Tiam ordered therein parties to submit themselves and include the property owners in arbitration.

In the Supreme Court, Justice Tiam actively took part in the deliberations of the most controversial cases brought before it. In the *Torre de Manila* case (*Knights of Rizal vs. DMCI Homes, Inc., et al, GR. No. G.R. No. 213948, April 25, 2017*), Justice Tiam agreed with Justice Carpio's ponencia that absent a clear legal right to the protection of the vista, sightline and setting of the Rizal Park and



Rizal Monument, and for petitioner's failure to establish its legal standing and the existence of an actual controversy ripe for judicial adjudication, mandamus will not lie. In the Martial Law cases, promulgated early this month, Justice Tijam opined that such proclamation of the President in the entire Mindanao region is justified. In concluding his opinion, he said,

**"Martial law is not intrinsically wrong. If it were, the framers of the Constitution composed of staunch nationalists and defenders of human rights, would have deleted it altogether from the 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions. These learned men understood that martial law was a necessary constitutional weapon to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic.**

**Those who criticize martial law are haunted by the abuses of the past and fearful of the potential dangers it may entail. But these apprehensions have no bearing when the noble objectives sought to be accomplished are the protection of the people and the defense of the state."**

Consistent with his advocacy of trailblazing judicial reforms, Justice Tijam, in the case of *Quimvel vs. People of the Philippines* (G.R. No. 214497, April 18, 2017) was uncompromising in his position that judges ought to clearly and distinctly apprise the accused of the crime of which he is being charged, as well as the penalty which the accused is to face if found guilty. This, according to Justice Tijam, should be made part of the judge's duty, independently of, and in addition to, the present safeguard that the information must sufficiently state the designation of the offense and the acts or omissions complained of, to the end that the accused's constitutionally right to be informed of the charge against him is recognized and protected. According to Justice Tijam, it is only through this means, can it be said that the accused had been truly and accurately informed of the charge against him.

Justice Tijam has been shortlisted to the Supreme Court for at least five (5) times since 2009 and could have joined the Court earlier. As one former President remarked privately to a group of friends, one of her mistakes was not appointing Justice Tijam to the Supreme Court during her Presidency.

**A truly outstanding individual, Justice Tijam is as**

**exemplary in his personal life. Justice Tijam has been happily married to his wife Cynthia for 45 years, and during his free time, enjoys being involved in the lives of his grandchildren. His first granchild, on one occasion, shared that Justice Noel ensures that the entire family prays and goes to mass every Sunday, something that I believe is a mark of a true Bedan, one who is not afraid to seek the help of the Almighty.**

**Indeed, Justice Tijam's humble beginnings to his professional ascent to the highest court of the land has been a testament, not only to his competence, but also of his unwavering integrity and dedication to the higher ideals of justice. This, as a fellow alumnus, I can say, is consistent with the Benedictine motto, Ora et Labora. Justice Tijam's passion for his work and his steadfast faith in the Lord undoubtedly makes him deserving of this testimonial that this group has graciously organized for him.**



# Bound Together by Our Beloved Alma Mater

*(Testimonial for Justice Maria Theresa Mendoza-Arcega (Law '90), Justice Bernellito R. Fernandez (Law '80) and Justice Lorifel L. Pahimna (Law '86))  
by: Hon. Amparo Cabotaje-Tang (Law '79) Presiding Justice of the Sandiganbayan*



**PJ Cabotaje-Tang**

Perhaps no one is as pleased as I am to deliver a message for our honorees from the Sandiganbayan tonight. For, not only are we bound together by our beloved alma mater; now we are "married" to the same Court, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, in the service of God and country.

truth and accountability that unfolds in our Court everyday. We also vowed to aim unflinchingly for the real statistics that matter in our Court: a vastly reduced backlog, a significant uptake in the speed and number of decided cases, a more than significant, if not 100

San Bida indeed has every reason to be proud of its new justices. Before they joined the Sandiganbayan, they distinguished themselves through their work as trial judges. Together, they bring a combined fifty-six (56) years of solid judicial experience to the anti-graft court. And from what I have seen so far, they have also brought with them the Benedictine ethic of *Ora et Labora* to their new offices. Their work as silent but efficient dispensers of justice has certainly contributed to the anti-graft court's recent record-high performance for the first half of 2017. As reported in the news, the Court managed to resolve 442 cases thus far this year, compared to 371 disposed of for the whole of 2016. Given the Court's current performance rate, I am optimistic that the Court will surpass its 2013 record of 480 resolved cases. And I am happy and proud to say that our honorees tonight, while relatively new to their positions, have certainly done their share in making this possible. I have every confidence that as they grow into their new roles, they will make an even bigger impact upon the Court's overall record. Certainly, as our fellow alumni, they deserve our complete faith and full support.

But there is a lot more to be done, and everyone in the Court is aware of it. In our recently concluded founding anniversary, we renewed our pledge to pursue our work with relentless vigor and energy, as we carry out the quest for





**Justice Pahimna with the SBCLAA Board of Trustees**



percent, affirmance by the Supreme Court of our decisions and resolutions, and 100 percent execution of final and executory judgments. With these, my fellow Bedans by my side, I know that the fruition of this quest will somehow be made easier.

exhortation I share with you tonight: "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

To be sure, not even St. Benedict said that Ora et Labora were easy. But we must carry on, as all Bedistas should. And as we do, we can take comfort in the words of John F. Kennedy, whose

Fellow Bedans, please join me in giving a resounding applause to our new Sandiganbayan Justices, Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega, Bernelito R. Fernandez and Lorifel L. Pahimna.



**The Honorees: Justice Arcega, Justice Fernandez and Justice Pahimna**



Atty. Francisco

## A Tribute to JUDGE TORIBIO E. ILAO, JR. (LLB '72)

by: Atty. Eduardo E. Francisco, Law '71

Judge Toribiollao, Jr. or Judge Jun Ila to his friends and classmates was born in July 17, 1946 at Mandaluyong City. Judge Jun Ila was a product of the public school system. He finished his elementary education at V. Zamora

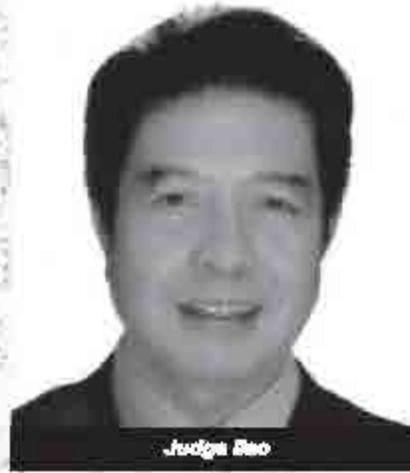
Elementary School at Pandacan, Manila and graduated from high school at M.A. Roxas High School.

He obtained a degree of Bachelor of Arts major in Philosophy at SBC Manila and graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Laws at the same school in 1972. From 1973 to 1977 he was employed at the City Legal Office Manila starting as Legal Researcher and Assistant Attorney and eventually in 1978 he went to law practice as a private practitioner up to 1986. Thereafter, in 1987 he was appointed as technical assistant to the Chairman at NPDC Rural Park Manila and in 1988 to 1990 he held the position of Senior Legal Analyst at the Senate office of Sen. Orlando Mercado.

In 1991 to 1997 he was appointed Provincial Adjudicator with the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board at Pampanga and Provincial Adjudicator of Bulacan with DARAB from 1997 to 2004.

In 2004, he was appointed Presiding Judge at Regional Trial Court of Puerto Princesa City at Branch 52 and served as Presiding Judge in Palawan for four years. In December 8, 2008 he was transferred to the Regional Trial Court at Taguig City where he served as Presiding Judge until his retirement on July 17, 2016.

During his student days at SBC, Judge Jungot involved in occasional skirmishes or trouble with students from other schools during basketball games involving SBC team against Ateneo and San Sebastian teams. He was almost always found in the middle of every rumble because Judge Jun was considered our "enforcer". He was always found in the defense of his classmates and



Judge Ila

friends.

In 1968 he was affiliated with the Lex Talionis Fraternity at SBC College of Law. He was one of the pioneering members of now famous fraternity where its members are now holding high positions in government both in the executive

department and the judiciary.

As law students of SBC he had a famous quarrel that led to a fist fight with a law student classmate and frat brother Rodrigo Duterte. After the confrontation, the two bitter enemies became best friends. This incident was highlighted when the presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte mentioned Judge Jun's name in his campaign speeches in Manila.

Judge Jun, who, as an active member of Pandacan Hikers Club at Pandacan, Manila and Kabaka Foundation Inc. of Cong Amado Bagatsing, actively but discreetly supported the candidacy of his best friend Rodrigo Digong Duterte. Fortunately, candidate Duterte, without the backing of a political organization and political affiliation, was elected President of the Republic in the May 2016 presidential elections.





JBC member Judge Jun receives his Sta. Nino statue from SBCLAA Board of Trustees

After his retirement as RTC Judge in 2016, Pres. Digong appointed Judge Jun as a member of the Judicial & Bar Counsel representing the private sector.

I can vouch for Judge Jun's honesty and competence. Case in point, Judge Jun started working for the government in 1973 as a resident

of Pandacan and upon his retirement as Presiding Judge of the RTC of Taguig he remained to be a resident of Pandacan Manila. He lives a humble and simple life and is consistently engaged in serving the underprivileged families in Pandacan. His generous spirit has touched the lives of the poor and needy more times than I can count. He is a proud father of 3 children who are all degree holders with successful careers.





*Judge Serrano*

## A Tribute to DOJ Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre, II (Law '71)

*by Judge Alberto F. Serrano (Law '71)*

I have known Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II for more than five decades. We have been friends since our high school days. Thus, I can claim competence in making statements about his character, work, skills

and educational achievements.

Secretary Aguirre had been untiring and consistent in his lifelong quest for knowledge such that he garnered numerous academic awards. He obtained his Bachelor's of Arts degree major in Philosophy from San Beda College graduating magna cum laude. He was the class valedictorian of Law Class '71, the same class that produced two cabinet members, three Supreme Court Justices, a dozen Regional Trial Court Judges, two congressmen, an ambassador and chairman of the NLRC.

After passing the bar in 1972, Secretary Aguirre immediately engaged in the practice of law. The first civil case that he filed in 1972 was finally decided by the Supreme Court in favor of his client after seventeen years. His first court appearance in a criminal case before the Municipal Trial Court of Mulanay, Quezon attracted the townsfolk who filled the courtroom as they witnessed how a neophyte lawyer held his own against a very seasoned lawyer. Secretary Aguirre continued to apply the training that he got from San Beda, effectively using his knowledge and readily developing his aptitude to excel in trial work. He spent long hours preparing for trial and always conscious of his client's cause.

For more than four decades, Secretary Aguirre was sincerely devoted to litigation work, handling high profile and ordinary cases. For his brilliance, relentless pursuit of excellence and for the noble cause of justice, several well-known organizations recognized his exceptional achievements as a litigator or trial lawyer. Accordingly, he received the following awards:

1. "Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan" the highest achievement award given by Quezon Province;
2. Bedan Recognition Award for Private Practice of Law, given by the San Beda Law Alumni Association in 2012;



*DOJ Sec. Vit Aguirre and Atty. Am Cruz*

3. Distinguished Bedan Award in the field of law (Private Practice) given by the San Beda College Alumni Association in 2013; and
4. Award for Outstanding Litigator given by the Lex Talionis Fraternitas in 2015.

These awards were based on his invaluable services to his clients. But there is a case that is more remarkable than others and this case is none other than the Vizconde massacre case wherein Secretary Aguirre was a leading member of the defense team for the accused Hubert Webb. I distinctly remember how he gallantly displayed in the course of trial the numerous inconsistent and contradictory statements of the prosecution's star witness through his incisive cross-examination questions. The judgment of acquittal rendered by the Supreme Court was principally due to the rejection of the testimony of said star witness. In several cases, Secretary Aguirre demonstrated his unique talent in exposing the bias of some judges against his clients yet he successfully evaded being cited in contempt of court because of his constant infectious smile.

Secretary Aguirre puts great value to fairness, loyalty and friendship. When a friend and fraternity brother was investigated for alleged grave misconduct, Secretary Aguirre willingly served as his counsel. By using his vast experience as a litigator in analyzing the pieces of evidence, Secretary Aguirre was able to unveil some pre-staged text messages being proffered to distort the truth. Of course, his fraternity brother was found innocent of the administrative charges and this cleared the way to his eventual promotion.

There is a defining moment in his life - when he bravely courted being held in contempt of the Senate because he defied, nay refused to hear the bullying words of a Lady Senator during the impeachment trial of Justice Corona by cuffing his ears with his hands. The Senators and the national media caught this simple but eloquent gesture of Secretary Aguirre that he became the center of the news for the quite a time.

There were other exciting and extra-ordinary cases which Secretary Aguirre handled but for want of material time, I cannot relate them here anymore. What is outstanding, however, is his uncanny ability to look beyond common issues involved in a case. His quiet demeanor is a sign that he is always in deep thought.



*DOJ Sec. Aguirre receives his St. Niño statue from SBCLAA VP de Leon*



*DOJ Sec. Aguirre and ES Medfielder*

The appointment of Secretary Aguirre as the head of the Department of Justice is the culmination of his lifelong dream to serve the great number of our people who are thirsting for justice. As an ex-officio member of the Judicial and Bar Council, I am certain that he will be an effective instrument in the proper selection of candidates for appointment, especially applicants who possess integrity, competence, probity, industry and who have high sense of fairness towards all litigants. To those applying for promotion, rest assured that performance in enhancing the cause of justice would be a principal consideration of our good Secretary in casting his vote.

To our friend, classmate and brother, congratulations again and more power to you!

# Roster of Bedans in Government Service

(As of August 15, 2017)



**Rodrigo Roa Duterte**  
President  
Republic of the Philippines  
(Law '72)



**Lella M. De Lima**  
Senator  
Republic of the Philippines  
(Law '85)

## House Representatives



**Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado**  
1st District, Bulacan  
(BSC '06 / MBA '14)



**Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr.**  
4th District, Quason City  
(HS '52)



**Fredenil H. Castro**  
2nd District, Capiz  
(Law '75)



**Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr.**  
2nd District, Laguna  
(GS '54 HS '58 Law '66)



**Ronald Wayne M. Cosalan,**  
Lons District, Benguet  
(HS '69)



**Luis Emmanuel A. Ferrer IV**  
6th District, Cavite  
(BSC Accounting '94)



**Virgilio S. Lacson**  
Manila Teacher's Savings and Loan  
Association, Inc. Party List  
(BSC Accounting '85)



**Arnulfo P. Fuentebella**  
4th District, Camarines Sur  
(GS '58 HS '62)



**Paulino Salvador C. Leachon**  
1st District, Oriental Mindoro  
(CAS Phlo '84 Law '88)



**Roy M. Loyola**  
5th District, Cavite  
(Law '83-'85)



**Roger G. Mercado**  
Lona District, Southern Leyte  
(Law '77)



**Jose T. Panganiban, Jr.**  
ANAC Indigenous People Party List  
(Law '03)



**Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas**  
6th District, Pangasinan  
(Law '96)



**Pablo C. Ortega**  
1st District, La Union  
(GS '67 HS '71)



**Isidro S. Rodriguez, Jr.**  
2nd District, Rizal  
(GS '60)



**Cesar V. Sarmiento**  
Lona District, Catanduanes  
(AB Economics '78)



**Eric D. Singson**  
2nd District, Ilocos Sur  
(BSC Marketing '88)



**Jose I. Tejada**  
3rd District, North Cotabato  
(AB Economics '80-82)



**Abraham N. Tolentino**  
7th District, Cavite  
(BSC Management '84)



**Reynaldo V. Umall**  
2nd District, Mindoro  
(GS '71 HS '75 Law '83)



**Renato J. Unico, Jr.**  
1st District, Camarines Norte  
(CAS 87-89)



**Carlos Roman Uybarreta**  
1-Care Partylist  
(Law '92)

## Governor



**Gerardo J. Espina Jr.**  
Naval Biliran  
(CAS '85)



**Jose L. Ong, Jr.**  
Northern Samar  
(Law '73)



**Alfonso V. Umali, Jr.**  
Oriental Mindoro  
(GS '69 HS '73)

## Vice-Governor



**Garry M. Lavin**  
Northern Samar  
(AB ECO '89)



**Carlo P. Loreto**  
Leyte  
(Law '92-'93)

## Provincial Board Member



**Edmund R. Abesamis**  
Nueva Ecija  
(AB Political Science '76 Law '80)



**John Patrick R. Agustin**  
Tarlac  
(CAS '02-04)



**Clemente B. Arboleda, Jr.**  
5th District, Pangasinan  
(CAS '99)



**Gilbert L. Daguloag**  
1st District Marikinaque  
(ES '80)



**Ryan R. Enriquez**  
Cavite  
(BSC BME '99)



**Aristotle J. Gaza**  
1st District, Bataan  
(CAS '99)



**Emily Isidro-Vico**  
3rd District, Bulacan  
(Law '94)



**Gerardo R. Roxas**  
2nd District, Bataan  
(CAS '85)



**Harmes S. Sembrano**  
2nd District, Tarlac  
(BSC Accounting '84)



**Benjamin C. Serrano, Jr.**  
1st District, Bataan  
(HS '92)



**Harry C. Sugang**  
Aklan  
(Law '78)



**Immanuel L. Sodusta**  
Aklan  
(Law '83-'85)



**Atty. Nemesio B. Beltran**  
Bukidnon  
(Law '86)



**Niccolo J. Villasin**  
Leyte  
(CAS 2000)



**Christian Emmanuel W. Uy**  
Northern Samar  
(CAS 2000)

## Mayor



**Don I. Abalon**  
San Roque Northern Samar  
(Law '88)



**Ferdinand R. Abesamis**  
Peñaranda Nueva Ecija  
(AB Political Science '75 Law '79)



**Herbert Constantine M. Bautista**  
Quezon City  
(GS '81 HS '86 AB '92)



**Antonio O. Bendita**  
Surallah South Cotabato  
(AB Political Science '82)



**Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio**  
Davao City  
(Law 2000-'04)



**Justine Marc SB. Chipeco**  
Calamba City  
(Law '86-'99)



**Ace Jello C. Concepcion**  
Mariveles Bataan  
(Law '10)



**Christopher Ampeng Cuan**  
Libunan, Cotabato (BSC '95)



**Clarence E. Dato**  
San Jose Northern Samar  
(HS '89 CAS '93)



**Rosario Anna Victoria  
Dinglasan-Conti**  
San Pascual Batangas  
(Law '94-96)



**Antonio A. Ferrer**  
General Trias  
(Law '90-'92)



**Manuel L. Fortes, Jr.**  
Barcelona, Sorsogon  
(Law '90)



**Felix Joash Eduarte**  
Tayum, Abra  
(HS '10)



**Christopher A. Mamauag**  
Cabagan, Isabela  
(Law '90-93)



**Oscar S. Moreno**  
Cagayan De Oro City  
(Law '75)



**Marino P. Morales**  
Mabalacat City Pampanga  
(AB Political Science '70)



**Almira Abella-Orfanel**  
Catanuan Quezon  
(Law '97)



**Edgardo D. Pamintuan**  
Angeles City  
(Law '77)



**Miguel F. Ponce**  
Pateros  
(Law '89)



**Jaime P. Rusillon**  
General Luna Surigao Del Norte  
(HS '59)



**Angel M. Saulong**  
Bansud Oriental Mindoro  
(BSC Accounting '89)



**Martin Raul S. Sison II**  
Urbiztondo, Pangasinan  
(BS IBEM '10)



**Virgilio J. Valle**  
Sta Cruz Ilocos Sur  
(Law '77)



**Carmelo O. Villacete**  
Plat Cagayan  
(Law '87)

## Vice-Mayor



**Perdo Rex R. Aguinaldo**  
Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte  
(AB Political Science '82)



**Joel Amos Alejandro**  
Alicia Isabela  
(BSC Accounting '88)



**Philip A. Dacayo**  
Solano Nueva Vizcaya  
(Law '90)



**Placido P. Eduarte**  
Tayum, Abra  
(BSC Management '89)



**George A. Elias**  
Taguig City  
(GS 72 HS '76)



**Alfonso S. Casurra**  
Surigao City  
(Law '80)



**Carlo Pontico C. Fortuna**  
Mandaue City  
(Law 1996)



**Michael Demph D. Naga**  
Dimasalang Masbate  
(CAS '08 LLB '15)



**Vincent I. Navarosa**  
Libacao, Aklan  
(GS '92 HS '96 BSC 2000)



**Jose A. Pilar, Jr.**  
Bacarra, Ilocos Norte  
(BS Economics '88)



**Holden N. Sembrano**  
Gerona Tarlac  
(BSC Management '94)



**Virgilio T. Teruel**  
Tigbauan, Iloilo  
(Law '83)



**Roseller M. Toledo**  
San Clemente Tarlac  
(AB Economics '83 Law 84-86)

## Councilor



**Gerald Guttrie Aquino**  
Mabalacat Pampanga  
(BS Accounting 2000)



**Ethel Joy F. Arriola**  
District 1 Navotas City  
(Law '13)



**Richard Macadandang  
Arquillo**  
Bacarra Ilocos Norte  
(BS IREM '08)



**Hero Clarence M. Bautista**  
3rd District Quezon City  
(GS '83)



**Thristan Cruz**  
Angat Bulacan  
(BS '92 CAS '92-95)



**Powell A. Del Rosario**  
Roxas City  
(CAS '02)



**Rosendo O. Del Rosario Jr.**  
Cabanatuan City  
(BSC BME 2000)



**Roger John C. Fariñas II**  
Laoag City  
(BS IREM '10 Law '10-13)



**Miguel M. Flores**  
La Paz Tarlac  
(AB Economics '99)



**Allan Butch T. Francisco**  
5th District Quezon City  
(BS '90)



**Oliver Owen L. Garcia**  
Valencia City Bukidnon  
(Law '96)



**Eufemio C. Lagumbay**  
3rd District Quezon City  
(GS '67)



**Angelito S. Lazaro Jr.**  
Calamba Laguna  
(BSC Accounting '93 Law '99)



**Joanna Katrina L. Ledda**  
Balaogan La Union  
(Law '14)



**Ramon Anselmo Martin D.**  
Legaspi III  
Makato, Aklan  
(BS ENTREP '09-13)



**Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III**  
2nd District Quezon City  
(BSC Accounting '92)



**Ramon P. Medalla**  
2nd District Quezon City  
(BSC Marketing '80)



**Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V**  
San Fernando City, La Union  
(BSC Marketing Management '05)



**Leif Laiglon A. Opiña**  
Cabuyao Laguna  
(Law '05)



**Eduardo V. Quintos XVI**  
4th District Manila  
(Law '92-93)



**J. Melchor B. Quitain, Jr.**  
Davao City  
(Law '98)



**Harvey A. Quiwa**  
San Fernando Pampanga  
(BSC Marketing 2000)



**Edgardo D. Pamintuan Jr.**  
Angeles City Pampanga  
(AB Economic with Computer  
Application '01)



**John Albert C. Rana**  
Lumban, Laguna  
(BSC Management '93)



**Carlo Niño C. Rivera**  
Mabalacat Pampanga  
(BSC BME 2000)



**Mark Gay P. Santos**  
San Rafael Bulacan  
(BS Marketing '95)



**Casimiro C. Sison**  
6th District Manila  
(AB Economics '76 Law '80)



**Jose Netu M. Tamayo**  
Dagupan City  
(Law '90)



**Christian Paul L. Uy**  
6th District Manila  
(BSBA Marketing Management '12)



**Peter Alvin A. Violago**  
San Rafael Bulacan  
(GS '87 ILS '91 CAS '95)

# Appointive Positions

## JUDICIARY

### Supreme Court of the Philippines



**Samuel R. Martires**  
*Associate Justice*  
Supreme Court of the Philippines  
(Law '75)



**Noel G. Tijam**  
*Associate Justice*  
Supreme Court of the Philippines  
(Law '71)



**Bienvenido L. Reyes (Ret.)**  
*Associate Justice*  
Supreme Court of the Philippines  
(Law '71)



**Jose C. Mendoza (Ret.)**  
*Associate Justice*  
Supreme Court of the Philippines  
(Law '71)

### Court of Appeals



**Louis P. Acosta**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(AB Economics '81)



**Pedro B. Corales**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '84)



**Ma. Elisa Sempio Diy**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '91)



**Samuel H. Gaerlan**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeal  
(Law '83)



**Ramon R. Garcia**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(ES '72)



**Ramon Paul L. Hernando**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '90)



**Pablito A. Perez**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '83)



**Mario V. Lopez**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '80)



**Perpetua T. Atal-Paño**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '81)



**Fernanda Lampas-Peralta**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '84)



**Eduardo B. Peralta, Jr.**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeal  
(Law '88)



**Jose C. Reyes, Jr.**  
*Associate Justice*  
Court of Appeals  
(Law '77)



**Ruben Reynaldo G. Roxas**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Court of Appeals*  
*(Law '86)*



**Marlene Gonzales-Sison**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Court of Appeals*  
*(Law '80)*



**Oscar V. Badelles**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Court of Appeals*  
*(Law '79)*



**Elihu A. Ybañez**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Court of Appeals*  
*(Law '78)*

### **Sandiganbayan**



**Renato C. Francisco**  
*Associate Justice*  
*(Bachelor in Liberal Arts major in*  
*English and Philosophy '69)*



**Marie Christine**  
**Azcarraga-Jacob**  
*Associate Justice*  
*(Law '79-80)*



**Amparo Cabotaje-Tang**  
*Presiding Justice*  
*Sandiganbayan*  
*(Law '79)*



**Rodolfo A. Ponferrada**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Sandiganbayan*  
*(Law '71)*



**Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Sandiganbayan*  
*(Law '90)*



**Bernellito R. Fernandez**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Sandiganbayan*  
*(Law '90)*



**Lorifel L. Pahinna**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Sandiganbayan*  
*(Law '86)*

### **Judicial Bar and Council**



**Toribio E. Ilo, Jr.**  
*Member*  
*Judicial Bar and Council*  
*(Law '72)*



**Vitaliano N. Aguirre II**  
*Ex-Officio Member*  
*Judicial Bar and Council*  
*(Law '71)*



**Reynaldo V. Umali**  
*Ex-Officio Member*  
*Judicial Bar and Council*  
*(Law '71)*

**Executive Office  
Office of the President**



**Salvador C. Medialdea**  
*Executive Secretary  
Office of the President  
(Law '76)*



**Jesus Melchor V. Quitain**  
*Undersecretary  
Office of the President  
(Law '70)*



**John Carlo Gil M. Sadian**  
*Director IV  
Office of the President  
(Law '11)*

**Department of Justice**



**Vitaliano N. Aguirre II**  
*Secretary  
Department of Justice  
(HS '63 AB '67 Law '71)*



**Antonio T. Kho, Jr.**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Justice  
(Law '91)*



**Erickson H. Balmes**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Justice  
(Law '00)*



**Raymund L. Mecate**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Justice  
(Law '92)*



**Reynante B. Orceo**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Justice  
(Law '92-'94)*



**George O. Ortha II**  
*Assistant Secretary  
Department of Justice  
(Law '02)*

**Department of Transportation**



**Arthur P. Tugade**  
*Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
(GS '59 HS '63 AB '67 Law '71)*



**Garry V. De Guzman**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Transportation  
(RSC Accounting '89 Law '94)*



**Paul Reinier R. Yebra**  
*Undersecretary  
Department of Transportation  
(Law '09)*



**Leah V. Merida-Quiambao**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
*Department of Transportation*  
*(Law '06)*



**Raul E. Canon, Jr.**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
*Department of Transportation*  
*(Law '10)*

**Department of Information  
and Communications Technology**



**Rodolfo A. Salalima**  
*Secretary*  
*Department of Information and  
Communications Technology*  
*(AB '69 Law '73)*



**Carlos Mayorico E. Caliwara**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
*Department of Information and  
Communications Technology*  
*(Law '87)*



**John Henry D. Naga**  
*Assistant Secretary,*  
*Legal Affairs*  
*Department of Information and  
Communications Technology*  
*(Law '13)*

**Presidential Adviser**

**Ambassador**



**Abdullah D. Mama-O**  
*Secretary*  
*Presidential Adviser on Overseas  
Filipino Workers*  
*(Law '72)*



**Antonio A. Cablitas**  
*Presidential Adviser on Foreign  
Investments*  
*(Law '72)*



**Adnan V. Alonto**  
*Ambassador-Designate*  
*Saudi Arabia*  
*(Law '85)*

**Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation**



**Alfredo C. Lim**  
*Chief Operating Officer and President*  
*Philippine Amusement and Gaming  
Corporation*  
*(Law '76)*



**Arthel B. Caronongan**  
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*  
*Philippine Amusement and  
Gaming Corporation*  
*(Law '86)*



**Alberto O. Regino, Jr.**  
*Chief of Staff to the President*  
*Philippine Amusement and Gaming  
Corporation*  
*(Law '97)*

**Social Security System**



**Emmanuel F. Dooc**  
President & CEO  
(Law '79)



**Arthur L. Amansec**  
Commissioner  
(Law '72)



**Gonzalo P. Duque**  
Commissioner  
(Law '76)



**Voltaire P. Agas**  
Senior Vice President and Chief  
Legal Counsel  
(Law '87)

**Bureau of Customs**



**Vincent Philip C. Maronilla**  
District Collector  
Manila International Container  
Port, Bureau of Customs  
(Law '89-'00)



**Ma. Rhea M. Gregorio**  
District Collector, Port of Manila,  
Bureau of Customs, (Law '05)



**Oscar Arcilla**  
Department Of Agriculture  
(AB Economics '83)

**Undersecretary**

**Chairman/President**



**Abraham Khalil B. Mitra**  
Chairman  
Games and Amusement Board  
(BSC Management '91)



**Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr.**  
Chairman and Chief Executive  
Officer  
Philippine Mining Development  
Corporation  
(Law '71)



**Arsenio J. Lizaso**  
President  
Cultural Center of the Philippines  
(HS '53)

**Executive Director**



**Ferdinand Jesus A. Pecson**  
Public-Private Partnership Center  
of the Philippines-PPP  
(HS '76)

**Commissioner**



**Dennis B. Funa**  
*Insurance Commission*  
(Law '90)



**Rey E. Bulay**  
*Presidential Commission on Good Government*  
(Law '91)



**John A. Agbayani**  
*Presidential Commission on Good Government*  
(Law '78)



**Emilio B. Aquino**  
*Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission*  
(Law '92)



**Roland B. Beltran**  
*Sugar Regulatory Administration*  
(Law '89)

**Deputy / Associate Commissioner/Administrator**



**Lanee Cui-David**  
*Deputy Commissioner*  
*Bureau of Internal Revenue*  
(Law '89-'94)



**Mel John I. Verzosa**  
*Deputy Administrator*  
*National Tobacco Administration*  
(Law '10)



**Judy Carol Layus-Dansal**  
*Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration*  
*National Food Authority*  
(Law '76)

**Chief Operating Officer**



**Vicente Pelagio A. Angala**  
*Chief Operating Officer*  
*Duty Free Philippines*  
(GS '76 HS '80)

**Department of Interior and Local Government**



**Ricojudge Janvier M. Echiverri**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
*Department of the Interior and Local Government*  
(GS '91, HS '95, CAS '00)

**Director/Board Member/Member**



**Rene V. Sarmiento**  
Member  
Government Peace Panel as Peace  
Negotiators  
(AB Political Science '74)



**Marvel Chiu Clavecilla**  
Director  
Philippine National Oil Company  
(Law '72)



**Tomas F. Lahom III**  
Director  
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority  
(Law '85)



**Rogelio V. Garcia**  
Director  
Development Bank of the  
Philippines  
(Law '71)



**Teodoro M. Jumamil**  
Director  
Development Bank of the  
Philippines  
(Law '78)



**Rudolfo A. Bernardez IV**  
Director  
Luzon Dairy  
Federation/Cooperative National  
Dairy Authority  
(Law '86-87)



**Reynaldo F. Tansico**  
Board Member  
Philippine Deposit Insurance  
Corporation  
(Law '72)

**General Manager/Director General/General Counsel**



**Bienvenido K. Chy**  
General Manager  
Philippine Retirement Authority  
(Law '72)



**John Paul R. Ganalon**  
General Counsel  
Governance Commission for  
GOCCs  
(Law '07)



**Rudolf Philip B. Jurado**  
Government Corporate Counsel  
Office of the Government Corporate  
Counsel  
(Law '85-'87)

**Assistant Secretary / Manager**



**Federico V. Abuan, Jr.**  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Labor and  
Employment  
(Law '77)



**Jose Arturo S. Garcia**  
Assistant General Manager  
Metro Manila Development  
Authority  
(CAS '92)



**SBCLAA  
Vice  
President**

# Obet De Leon

celebrates 68th Birthday

It was a Club Filipino night to remember as Atty. Roberto "Obet" De Leon celebrated his 68th birthday. Family members, friends, loved ones, SBCLAA officers and trustees showed up in full force to wish Atty. Obet a birthday filled with blessings, good health and prosperity.

For many friends and loved ones of Atty. Obet, he is indeed a rare breed of a good person. He is always there when help is needed most. Laughter is second nature to him. He is the livewire of every party, and he brings joy wherever he may be. For his fellow SBCLAA officers and trustees, he is like a beloved brother. The group has known him so much and shared so much together. And that bond of friendship with fellow Bedans will never be cut. He is a man and a friend for all seasons!

We wish Atty. Obet every good wish and special prayers for his continued good health and greater success.





*Atty. Parulan*

## A Tribute to Cong. Reynaldo V. Umali (Law '83)

*By Atty. Jeremy Z. Parulan, (Law '83)*

Three words come to mind whenever we think of our honoree. Loyal. Foresighted. Fearless.

Congressman Rey, as his peers fondly call him, is loyal to his constituents in Oriental

Mindoro. As a Third-Term Representative of its 2nd District, he has enthusiastically devoted his time and energy to uplifting the lives of his fellow-Mindoreños, taking great advantage of the very gift that his province has been blessed with - land. It is thus, no surprising, that the advancement of the agriculture sector has always been one of his priorities. To this end, he is one of the few who has found the balance, if not created it, between the preservation of the environment and the maximization of the same.

Congressman Rey has the gift of foresight, molded by his early work experiences, foremost of which was his time spent as a former economist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). As of today, Cong. Rey has co-authored the bill on the "Universal Access to Tertiary Education" and the Anti-Trust Bill which created the Philippine Competition Commission. Notably, he has been dubbed as the Father of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) which his team drafted while he was Bureau of Customs Deputy Commissioner in 2008. In the Bureau (BOC), he is well known as the one who spearheaded the Run After The Smugglers or the RATS, which holds the record for filing the most number of cases against violators of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP).

Cong. Rey has also subscribed to the belief that "power precedes development." Because of this, he has championed and rallied investments on renewable energy which gained momentum when he assumed the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Energy and Co-Chairman of the Joint Congressional Power Commission during his 2nd term in office. Last 16th Congress, he led the JCPC-House Panel in crafting the House Resolution No. 21 which saved the government 6 to 12 billion pesos for the rental or purchase of 300MW gensets to address the looming 2015 summer power crisis



*Congressman Rey Umali*

and institutionalized the Interruptible Load Program.

Congressman Rey is fearless. Amidst all his accomplishments, it is still the lawyer in him that has not only catapulted him to higher grounds, but addressed as well not a few problems in our society. Who can forget how he boldly pushed for the Impeachment of then Chief Justice Renato Corona and former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez? Who can forget how he asserted the congressional independence and the position that impeachment is our sole and exclusive prerogative? Who can forget the four privilege speeches he delivered to defend the doctrine of separation of powers and the principles of our system of checks and balances?

Now on his last term as Congressman, Cong. Rey has been given the herculean task to Chair the House Committee on Justice while he also plays significant roles in eight other committees especially the Committee on Energy-JCPC House Panel, Committee on Constitutional Amendments and the Committee on Good Government and Accountability, to name a few.

His Committee on Justice has heeded to President Rodrigo Duterte's call for unity and support in his war against criminality, corruption and illegal drugs. The Committee is actively working to fast-track reforms in the five pillars of the criminal justice system in the country, namely: the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecution service, correctional institution and the community.

The House Committee on Justice has conducted an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the controversies involving the alleged drug proliferation in the National Bilibid Prison (NBP). Such inquiry led to a series of exposé revealing the deep drug trade operating in the national prison and served its purpose in aid of legislation. Amendments to drug related laws were deliberated, and proposals for administrative measures on prison management were provided. Thus, the Committee is bound to revisit the Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002; and Republic Act 10575, otherwise known as the Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013.

Cong. Rey also shepherded the passage at the House of Representatives of the bill for the reimposition of Death Penalty for drug-related crimes as well as the legislative measure to update the backwardness of the fines applicable in the Revised Penal Code to be more in keeping with today's realities. He also takes the lead in the crafting of a bill on the Proposed Code of Crimes.

By virtue of his Chairmanship of the Justice Committee, he also stands as Ex-Officio member of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) representing the House of Representatives. While sitting at the JBC, he sees the need to revisit the settled doctrine and abandon the prevailing Chavez vs. Judicial and Bar Council jurisprudence. Thus, he filed a petition with the Supreme Court entitled "Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali vs. The Judicial and Bar Council" with G.R. No. 228628. Representative Umali argued that the one vote ruling violates the Constitution as it deprives Congress of fair representation in the council since the current composition is heavily skewed in favor of the judiciary and the executive, with each chamber of the legislature voting alternately. Moreso, he pointed out that the spirit of the constitution prevails over the letter.

I may have overlooked Congressman Rey's most perceptible trait yet. He is loud. And why shouldn't he be? He is, after all, a roaring lion. A true-blooded Bedan. He will, no doubt, excel in every area he is put in charge of, as he continues to make a difference in the institutions and in the lives of the people he serves.

It is with thrill, admiration and pride that I introduce to you, a recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Bedan Award for Government Service and the 2017 UllrangAma Award for Government and Public Service, my classmate and good friend Congressman Reynaldo "Rey" Umali.



*Cong. Rey Umali with Sec. Salvador Panelo*



# A Courtesy Call to Executive Secretary Salvador "Bingbong" Medialdea



Last July 13, 2017, the SBC Law Alumni Association Board of Trustees visited Malacanang Palace to have a courtesy call to its fellow trustee and now Executive Secretary, Office of the President Atty. Bingbong Medialdea. In attendance were: Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, Justice Francisco P. Acosta, Atty. Jeremy Z. Parulan, Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr., Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan, Atty. Solomon M. Hermosura, Atty. Alfredo C. Lim, Atty. Antonio Eduardo S. Nachura, Jr., Atty. Norberto P. Manzano, Atty. Alfredo R. Rosal, Jr. Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalima, Atty. Rodolfo D. Robles, Law Class 1992 Representatives: Atty. Benedict Malcontento, (Law '92 Class President), Atty. Ma. Victoria Reyes-Beltran, Atty. Miles Creencia; Atty. Renz Pagayanan, Wilma Abellanosa, Wevy Hebron and Ms. Ash

It was another memorable event worth documenting especially so that a number of Bedans now occupy the Palace with our first Bedan President as the main palace occupant.



## Fr. Mat De Jesus, OSB pays the SBCAA and SBCLAA a visit



Former Rector President Rev. Fr. Mateo De Jesus, OSB, was in the country recently to visit his family. Fr. Mat now based in the USA was treated to a sumptuous dinner by officers of the San Beda College Alumni Association and the San Beda College Law Alumni Association led by Atty. Dominador Buhain and Atty. Avelino Cruz with Atty. Jonas Cabochan and Dr. Joffre Alajar.

Here's every good wish and special prayers for Fr. Mat for his continued good health and greater success.

## SBCAA President Atty. Dominador Buhain recognized for his role in publishing

The Philippine Book Development Federation Inc. (Philbook) recently held its Special Board Meeting on June 22 at the Rax Knowledge Center in Quezon City. Philbook is a group of national associations involved in book publishing and book-related activities.

The Philbook meeting was highlighted by the presentation of Resolution to its President Atty. Dominador Buhain in recognition of his re-election in two international associations: as the president of Asia Pacific Publishers Association (APPA) and first vice-president of the Forum of Asia Pacific Graphic Arts (FAPGA). The re-election of SBCAA President Atty. Jimmy Buhain recognizes his important role both in publishing and printing associations in the Philippines. And his SBCAA family is truly proud of him.



## Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino joins the SBC Law Alumni Association Board of Advisers



The SBC Law Alumni Association is privileged to have among its board advisers the revered Dean of the San Beda Graduate School of Law, Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino.

Fr. Rannie received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy degree at the Faculty of Arts and Letter, University of Sto. Tomas and graduated in 1978 summa cum laude. He went to obtain a Master of Arts in Philosophy degree at the same university, completing it in 1981, summa cum laude. One year later, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy, major in Philosophy degree in 1988, summa cum laude, with a doctoral dissertation on human knowledge. At Columbia Pacific University (San Rafael, California), he completed his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, major in International Law in 1993. Since

then, he has been a professor of law at the Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao, College of Law. He is likewise professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Santo Tomas, and Dean of the Graduate School of Law, San Beda College. In the Winter Term of 1993, he was admitted as a Research Fellow at the Catholic University of Louvain (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) in Belgium. Joining the Philippine Judicial Academy of the Supreme Court in 1998, he became a Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2001, the Supreme Court sent him to the Federal Court of Australia as part of a team of Filipino jurists led by Mr. Justice Jose Vitug who completed a course on Commercial Law. In August of 2003, he did studies in Philosophy at Cambridge University, England. He has authored books both in philosophy and in law. In philosophy, he wrote: *A Philosophy of Education; A Philosophy of Law; and Man at Worship: A Philosophy of Religion*. In law, he authored *Peace on Earth: Issues in Public International Law; Intellectual Property Law: Comments and Annotations*, now on its second edition; and *Private International Law*. He has also annotated for Supreme Court Reports Annotated and is a regular contributor to *The Lawyers' Review*. Among his

lecture tours in philosophy were for the Taniguchi Foundation of Japan on Eco-Ethica. He did research on liturgy and canon law at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. He argued at a Demonstration Trial in Dublin, Republic of Ireland for the World Conference of Jurists in 2001 on an issue of international environmental law, where he also read a paper in jurisprudence. Aside from heading the Academic Affairs Office, he chairs the Department of Jurisprudence and Legal Philosophy of the Philippine Judicial Academy, and lectures for the MCLF, Program of the U.P. Institute of Judicial Administration (UP Law Complex). He is Parish Priest of St. Rose of Lima Parish. He is the son of Justice Hilarion L. Aquino, a retired member of the Court of Appeals, and Attorney Leticia P. Callangan-Aquino, Dean, College of Law of the Cagayan State University.

At present, the SBC Law Alumni Association Board of Advisers is composed of: Retired Justice Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura; Justice Jose C. Mendoza; Justice Jose C. Vitug; Justice Bienvenido L. Reyes; former Usec. Atty. Enrique D. Perez; Atty. Hilarion G. Mendoza, Jr.; Dean Virgilio B. Jara; Atty. Rene A. V. Saguisag; Atty. Rodolfo D. Robles; DOTr Secretary Arthur P. Tugade and DOJ Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre II.



**THE ANGELICUM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC. GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP TO A SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BEDAN**



**Jorge Z. Ortoll**



**Francis Ma. P. Faigal**

Through the endorsement of Mr. Jorge Z. Ortoll (GS'60, HS'64), his family owned Angelicum Charitable Foundation, Inc. has granted a full scholarship to Mr. Francis Ma. P. Faigal, an incoming Grade Eleven Senior High School student of the San Beda Basic Education Department.

This new scholarship grant is in partnership with the San Beda College Alumni Foundation (SBCAF) who administers the scholarship fund provided by Angelicum Charitable Foundation, Inc.

It is hoped that there will be more scholarship grants that will be provided by this new partner foundation of the SBCAF so that there will be more financially challenged but deserving students who can experience Bedan education at its finest.



**IN MEMORIAM**

- Jacinto D. Rodrigo, Sr. (CAS '56), father of Ramon Jacinto Rodrigo (CAS '88)
- Anacleto "Jun" del Rosario, Jr. (GS '72, HS '76)
- Jose L. Sanchez (GS '87)
- Bernard V. Gonzales (GS '67)
- Rolando P. Sison (GS '61, HS '65, CAS '89)
- Prof. Benjamin V. Faylona, (former Math teacher)
- Manuel C. Castro, Jr. (HS '46), father of Bu Castro
- Dr. Casto Magsaysay (HS '33)
- Dr. Aristotle T. Malabanan (GS '71, HS '75)
- Victoria Valdes, grandmother of Joseph Pedrajas (Public Relations staff)
- Lourdes Lindayag, wife of Dr. Jesus Lindayag (HS '60) and mother of Bedans Roderick / Rondel / Romme / Atty. Romana Lindayag
- Tobias Fomler (GS '82, HS '66, CAS '70)
- Eduardo Tan, Jr. (GS '82, HS '66, CAS '70)
- Reynaldo Laberinto (GS '62, HS '66)
- Nanki B. Hiranand (GS '49, CAS '57)
- Marcial Lara (HS '76)



**The Distinguished  
San Beda Law  
Alumni Association –  
Ramon S. Ang  
Professorial Chair  
in Law Program**



With the generous donation of San Miguel Corporation Vice Chairman, President and Chief Operating Officer Mr. Ramon S. Ang, the San Beda Law Alumni Association will be launching soon a Professorial Chair in Law.

The Professorial Chair Program administered by the SBCAF is an endowment fund that lends support to San Beda College's distinguished

educators in their instructional, community outreach, and research pursuits. The endowment fund is built up by generous individuals, a number of whom are Bedan alumni.

The faculty member awarded a Professorial Chair is given a fund amounting to Php100,000 effective AY 2017-2018, to enhance classroom instruction, engage in community outreach and produce a research paper.

Sharing in the SBC educational mission, the SBC Law Alumni Association (SBCLAA) forges a partnership with the school in assisting its educators to grow in the profession and apostolate of teaching, research and community service.

The SBCLAA shares also in the belief that a school can only be as good as its faculty members. Thus, the SBCLAA serves as a formidable partner of San Beda in providing concrete structures that will ensure that only the best and the brightest academicians are recruited and maintained in its roster of Bedan educators.



## A New Name and Emblem



Effective February 13, 2017, the SBLAA carries the new officially registered Securities and Exchange Commission name the SBC Law Alumni Association, Inc. With this change in the name comes the change in the logo to be used by this one and only San Beda Law Alumni Association. The new logo hopes to capture the very essence of the SBLAA with the emblem of Lady Justice embedded on the red lion symbol of San Beda.

Lady Justice is an allegorical personification of the moral force in judicial systems. Her attributes are a blindfold, a balance, and a sword. She often appears as a pair with Prudentia, who holds a mirror and a snake. Lady Justice is also known as Iustitia or

Justitia after Latin: Iustitia, the Roman goddess of Justice, who is equivalent to the Greek goddess Themis and Dike.

The SEC Certificate of Incorporation of the SBC Law Alumni Association, Inc. carries the Company Registration No. CN201704958, with the following as incorporators: Avelino V. Cruz, Rodolfo A. Salalima, Francisco P. Acosta, Jeremy Z. Parulan, Edna Herrera-Batacan, Alfredo R. Rosal, Jr., Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr. Jonas L. Cabochan, Solomon M. Hermosura, Alfredo C. Lim, Norberto P. Manzano, Salvador C. Medialdea, Pablito A. Perez and Dominador D. Buhain, Jr.



## THE SBC LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

*announces*

# The Law Student Scholarship Program for Academic Year 2017-2018

In a continuing partnership with the College of Law, the SBCLAA believes in the pivotal role of quality law education in securing a promising future for the young in the legal profession. It is in this light that the SBCLAA is extending financial assistance to deserving individuals, through a scholarship grants provided by various alumni and benefactors.

### I. Scholarships Available

- a. The SBCLAA Scholarship Grant (Free tuition and miscellaneous fees)
- b. The Justice Florenz D. Regalado Legal Education and Assistance Fund (FDR-LEAF) (covers school-related expenses, such as law books from legitimate sources, educational materials, living accommodations transportation, etc.)

### II. Scholarship Qualifications and Application

1. Qualifications of Applicant
  - a. An incoming freshman
  - b. Must be a financially-challenged student
  - c. Must be not a recipient of any other scholarship grant
  - d. Must be able to retain a semestral GPA of 85%
2. Applicant must:
  - a. accomplish an Application & Undertaking Form which can be secured from the SBC Alumni Office, 2/F, St. Bede's Bldg. San Beda College, Manila - 1005
  - b. submit a Letter of Application address to-- Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, SBCLAA Chairman and Justice Francisco P. Acosta, SBCLAA President
  - c. complete the following documentary requirements:
    - Official transcript of records during the undergraduate
    - Copy of grades
    - 3 pcs. 2x2 I.D. pictures
    - Parent's Income Tax Return (ITR), if any

For inquiries, please contact the SBC Law Alumni Office c/o Ms. Wilma Abellanosa at contact numbers (735-5995) and (0917-807-2222)



*Left to Right: Prior-Chancellor of the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat Rev. Fr. Rodolfo V. Alerna, OSEI; Office of the President Executive Secretary Salvador G. Macalindao; Chairman of the San Bede College Board of Trustees Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan; Smart Infinity Head Ms. Julie Carceller; and President of PLDT-Smart Foundation Ms. Esther Santos*

## **MVP in the Eyes of Today's Millennial Generation**

*by Joffre M. Alajar*



Much has been written and said about how Manuel V. Pangilinan inspired, ignited and propelled significant changes in Philippine society, with his unique brand of transformational and transactional leadership style and management approach applied in a number of corporate entities he has led through the years. Interestingly, his success story has become a subject of many research, strategic papers, thesis and doctoral dissertation which this author was privileged to write some years back. Today, the results and findings of this scholarly research have become topics for discussion in leadership and management classes in a number of business schools. A one-on-one taped video interview on MVP which this author produced had been shown in several leadership forums, and such gave students an opportunity to understand and appreciate MVP's amazing leadership style and management approach.

In today's academic environment, MVP's vast anthology of achievements, inspiring and thought-provoking rich lessons on leadership are intelligently



discussed, constructively scrutinized and critically analyzed by millennial students who are yearning for present-day role models and new-found learnings. Gladly, a relatively huge number of these business students aged 17 to 20 years old found in MVP the quintessential Filipino leader who has been exhibiting the admirable leadership traits of *ora et labora* (pray and work), *fides* (faith), *scientia* (knowledge) and *virtus* (virtue) - all marks drawn from his Benedictine formative education in San Beda. And such made MVP enduringly Bedan.

Today's millennial students consider MVP as a true pioneer and iconoclast whom they want to emulate in spite of his seemingly unreachable place in the business community. In fact, the young ones would like to know more about MVP and his journey of struggles and triumphs, not much through books and journals, but on the social media (facebook, instagram, twitter, etc.) where he could be more accessible among the technology-craze users.

MVP is also seen by the youth as a true business pillar whose passion and dedication to excellence made him land on the top of his field, and enabling his corporate entities steer to inestimable heights. These millennialswonder if this passion and dedication of MVP is something which wanes as one ages, or is it something that even grows with the passing of time?

Even at age 71, the millenials are amazed as to how MVP manages to hone his leadership skills which to them, seem to be updated and upgraded even in the heyday of the digital era.

Millenials observed too that MVP is fond of surrounding himself with top caliber people who are undeniablyhis "real power". The millenials however see him as a very straight forward and generous leader who knows how to reward and appreciate people for a good job done.

More important, the minds of today's millenials are constantly plagued by MVP's ways to adapt to change, as he is a visionary leader who challenges his people to welcome new ideas and innovations - hallmarks of a genuine thought leader.

Millenials also wonder if MVP has always been destined for greatness. However, a closer look at his modest roots reveals that it is MVP's character, competence, core values, and sense of mission for the country which contributed much to his success both as a person and asa business leader par excellence.

And on his 71st birthday celebration, our wish for him is to continue enlightening, inspiring and challenging the youth, guiding them to an empowered future, making them truly great Filipinos: men and women of faith, knowledge, and virtue, for today's millenials are hoping to become better and a greater version of the MVP they have always held up high.



# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr. (GS '57, HS '61)



I am most pleased to be re-elected as president of our prestigious San Beda College Alumni Association. This is my third term as president, and every time I get to be elected to this highest post, I get also to be more fulfilled in bringing the SBCAA to even a higher pedestal of service to fellow Bedans and the very institution we all care about—our San Beda College.

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Congratulations as well to Atty. Alex Flores, our newly-elected Vice President, the youngest ever Bedan to occupy such an important seat in the SBCAA. Kudos also to Atty. Winston Gmez who used to be LTFRB Chairman, for having been re-elected as Corporate Secretary together with Prof. Mike Y. Rublo as treasurer. Of course, I am always pleased to have Dr. Joffre Alajar as our SBCAA Executive Director for the last 15 years now. It has always been a pleasure to work with our other board trustees, namely: Mr. Rufino Abad, Mr. John Alindogan, Mr. Edmundo R. Badolato, Atty. Cleveland Z. Buela, Dr. Christian Bryan Bustamante, Atty. Jonas Cabochan, Mr. Catalino Rey M. Figueroa, Jr., Jose Mari V. Lacson, Mr. Sherwin Macatangay, Mr. Rene R. Reinoso, Justice Jose C. Reyes, Jr.

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We are most pleased to visit our San Beda Rizal campus last July 20, 2017. The campus is such a

refreshing site considering that it is still surrounded by a lot of trees and very spacious. We thank Fr. Paul de Vera, OSB, Mrs. Teresita Battad and the other school administrators who made our visit a memorable one. Be assured that the SBCAA will lend its full support to all their endeavours to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of Bedan education in that new campus.

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Congratulations to the many Bedans newly appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to various leadership positions in government service. To date, there are more than 150 Bedans occupying key positions in public service. It is our hope and prayer that they will all succeed in helping President Duterte in bringing our country to greater peace and prosperity. We are looking forward to having more testimonial dinners to honor these Bedans.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

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Manny S. Reyes

We congratulate Mr. Roman Felipe "Manny" S. Reyes, co-founder and chairman of Reyes Tacandong & Company, for joining the ranks of Asia's most outstanding entrepreneurs as he receives recognition for Professional and Business Services at the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards. Manny is also board trustee of the SBC Alumni Foundation.

# PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR AY 2016-17

by Atty. Dominador D. Bahabi, Jr.



In keeping with the tradition of chronicling the significant milestones of the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA). I am pleased to report to the SBCAA Board, the programs and accomplishments of the SBCAA under my watch as president during the period AY 2016-17.



San Beda College swept the 91st NCAA general championship



The San Beda College Track & Field Team

In recognition of their exemplary performance in government examinations, the SBCAA awarded cash incentives to the following board/bar exam placers:

Name	Exams	Exam Date	Place	Amount
John Vincent B. Martinez	CPA Board Exams	May 2016	12th	10,000
Angela Mari Recio	Nurses Licensure Board Exams	June 2016	6th	15,000

The roster of cash incentives provided by the SBCAA to our board and bar topnotchers effective AY 2014-2015:

Place	Cash Incentives
1st	Php 20,000
2nd	19,000
3rd	18,000
4th	17,000
5th	16,000
6th	15,000
7th	14,000
8th	13,000
9th	12,000
10th	11,000
11th - 15th	10,000
16th-20th	5,000

## A. CASH INCENTIVES TO NCAA CHAMPIONS

The SBCAA continued giving cash incentives to our NCAA Champion Teams (92nd Season) amounting to Ten thousand pesos each (Php10,000):

- Team/s**
- Basketball Seniors Team (Red Lions)
- Chess Men's Team
- Table Tennis Women's Team
- Taekwondo Men's Team
- Swimming Team (Sr. Men's & Sr. Women's Teams)
- Soft Tennis
- Football (Jr. Boys & Sr. Men's)

## B. CASH INCENTIVES TO BAR / CPA / NURSING / MEDICINE BOARD EXAMS TOPNOTCHERS / PLACERS

## C. SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS CLASS PROJECTS

A number of classes have initiated and implemented worthwhile projects:

1. Scholarship grant from Class GS'61 HS'65, CAS'69 (Domingo N. Cotoco) for

financially handicapped but deserving High School student awarded to Elisa Domingo.

- Scholarship grant from SBC Alumni Association Southern California (SBCAASC) awarded to Michelle Angelli T. Capiral, 3rd year BS Accountancy.
- The SBCAA administered the Fr. Benigno Benabarre student scholarship for financially-challenged but deserving Accountancy and Senior High student

NAME	COURSE	ACADEMIC YEAR
Adrian Gabriel S. Santiago	4th yr. BS Accountancy	2015-16 (1stSem)
Adrian Gabriel S. Santiago	4th yr. BS Accountancy	2015-16 (2ndSem)
Mary Jane T. Macario	4th yr. BS Accountancy	2015-16 (1st Sem. only)
Stanley Arinas	3rd yr. BS Accountancy	2015-16 (1st Sem. only)
Lyza Minette L. Acosta	1st year BS Accountancy	AY 2016-17 (1stSem)
Lyza Minette L. Acosta	2nd BS Accountancy	2016-17 (2ndSem)
Maria GeneroseOlores	Grade 11	2016-17
Maria GeneroseOlores	Grade 12	2017-18
Angelica V. Astonillo	4th year BS Accountancy	AY 2016-17 (2ndSem)
Fortuna Mariah Francesca	3rd year BS Accountancy	AY 2016-17 (2ndSem)
Ivan Jubel Christopher C. Marquez	2nd year BS Marketing	AY 2016-17 (2ndSem)

- Scholarship grant from Dr. Conrad Oca student scholarship for financially-challenged but deserving students.
- Scholarship grant from Tawid Aral Program (Student Assistance Loan Program) for graduating students and CPA reviewees as gathered by Dr. Joffre Alajar from his former accountancy students who are now successful CPAs and generous Accountancy Faculty.

Donor/S	Amount
Zeny Manuel	40,000.00
Albert Pasillao	5,000.00
Adrian Verueco	10,000.00
Rondel Lindayag	10,000.00
Manuel Ignacio	32,000.00
Gerard Yao	20,000.00
Mario Garcia	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Php 127,000.00</b>

Scholars	Course/ Year
Marc Manuel Cabrera (CPA review)	4th year, BSA
Roman Rodrigo C. Manuel	4th yr BS Entrep
Margareth Fallarna	4th year, BSA
Louie Antoine A. Jazul	3rd year, BSA
Jeffrey Laurence E. Antolin	4TH year, BSA
Justine Joy Rivera	4th year, BSA
Trixia Anne Resuello	4th year, BSA
<b>TOTAL</b>	

- VARIOUS FINANCIAL /ACADEMIC/SPORTS / MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
The SBCAA extended financial assistance to the following:

Particulars
San Beda Law Debate Circle
College of Medicine for the Annual Board Ops, held last September 10-18, 2016
The bereaved family of Mr. Alisago (husband of Nelda Allsago - Clinic Nurse
College of Medicine 10th year Graduation Anniversary and First Alumni Homecoming, October 8, 2016, Marriot Hotel
Financial Assistance for San Beda International Law Society (From Atty. Dominador Buhain)
Table Tennis team joining the university games in Dumaguete City, October 24, 2016
Professional fee for Victory party for NCAA 92nd Season
Bereaved family of Mr. Jajalla (father of Tess Jajalla of College of Guidance)
Financial assistance for Fr. Rahnie Aquino whose properties destroyed during the typhoon Lawin
CAS Faculty Christmas Party
CAS Faculty Association for staging variety the show, Feb. 21
SBC Basketball Team joining the STACAA meet in Sta. Cruz Laguna from February 6-10, 201

Medical Assistance
Medical assistance to Bedan Federico Fajardo
Medical assistance to Bedan Teodoro Malabanan
Medical Assistance to Bedan Sidney Simangan for his kidney dialysis <sup>7</sup>

- THE ALUMNI AWARDS  
The continuous recognition given to our outstanding alumni/ae especially those who have been forgotten, thus bringing them back to SBC. A more stringent criteria were however set, although admittedly,

much have to be desired in the criteria in selecting the winners.

**8. THE DUGONG BEDISTA AWARDS**

The SBCAA continuously recognized non-Bedans who have exhibited exemplary service to SBC service for at least 25 years. Winners received a trophy and cash reward of Php5,000 each.

**9. A WELL- ATTENDED AND WELL EXECUTED ALUMNI HOMECOMING**

By meeting regularly with the officers of the Jubilarians, the 2017 alumni homecoming was well-attended and well executed.



**10. AN ORDERLY AND CREDITABLE ELECTION OF FIVE SBCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Conscious of the importance of an honest, credible and clean elections, the SBCAA held another clean and orderly elections.

**11. SBCAA WEBSITE ([www.sanbedaalumni.org](http://www.sanbedaalumni.org))**

In its continuing effort to reach out to more Bedans all over the world, the SBCAA has continuously updated its website.

The SBCAA secretariat staff was tapped to update this website, with corresponding honoraria for additional work rendered by them.

**12. CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION OF THE BEDAN ALUMNUS**

Despite budget constraints, the SBCAA was able to release quarterly The Bedan Alumnus magazine, the official publication of the SBCAA. Thanks to the many valued donors who are one with us in ensuring that this publication should continue being an important vehicle to reach out to our alumni.

**13. HOLY MASS CELEBRATION AND TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR BEDANS ELECTED IN THE 2016 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**



The SBCAA organized a Holy Mass celebration and Testimonial Dinner Reception last September 12 honoring all Bedans who won in the last National and Local Elections, with the theme *Serving the Nation, The Bedan Way*. The honorees were led by President Rodrigo Duterte, Senator Leila De Lima, 22 Congressmen, 3 Governors, 2 Vice Governors, 18 Provincial Board Members, 26 Mayors, 12 Vice Mayors, 34 Councilors and 17 Bedans in the Presidential Cabinet and other Government Offices.

**14. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**



1. The SBCAA President Jimmy Buhain sponsored the merienda during the Send-Off of Documents to CHED for San Beda's University Application.

2. The SBCAA President Jimmy Buhain sponsored the first Outcome-Based Education International Conference (OBE iCON) held at Taal Vista Hotel Tagaytay last November 3-4, 2016.

Participants for the OBE Conference, follows: Dr. Josefina Manabat, Vice-President for Academics, Dr. Nomar Alviar, Vice-President for Research and Innovations, Fr. Ranzhilo Aquino, Dean, Graduate School of Law, Dr. Fernandino Fontanilla, Dean, College of Medicine, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Mrs. Teresita Battad, Principal, Integrated Basic Education Department, Dr. Joffre Alajar, Vice-Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Moses Angeles, Vice Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Prof. Jackqui Moreno, Chair, Accountancy Department and Dr. Annabel Quilon, Chair, Psychology Department

- 3. SBCAA President Jimmy Buhain gave a cash donation to the 2016 Institutional Christmas Celebration in San Beda.
- 4. SBCAA President Jimmy Buhain gave a cash donation to the College Administration for the food expenses incurred during the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the 8-Storey Building in the College Quadrangle.
- 5. SBCAA President Jimmy Buhain participated actively during the Institutional Administrators Strategic Planning held in Silang Cavite from February 22-25

**15. ALUMNI SUNDAY MASS**

The SBCAA organized 11am Sunday Masses for the Alumni with sponsoring batches at the Abbey Church.

**16. NECROLOGICAL SERVICE FOR FR. BENIGNO BENABARRE, OSB**

The SBCAA organized a necrological service for the late Rev. Benigno Benabarre, OSB last February 3, 2017.



**17. RED AND WHITE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The SBCAA has organized solely the Red & White Golf tournament at the Wack-wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City last January 27.



**18. THE CONTINUOUS HOLDING OF THE RED AND WHITE BALL**

To continuously celebrate Bedan achievement, the SBCAA spearheaded once again staging of the Red and White Ball. This annual gathering of Bedans would not have been made possible without the financial support of Manny V. Pangllinan. However, it was the SBCAA Secretariat which handled the logistics of the Red and White Ball.





**Celebrating**



# **of Service to Bedan Education**

Founded in June 1978, the San Beda College Alumni Foundation (SBCAF) was established by a core group of Bedans who would start up a fund drive to assist San Beda College in its primary apostolate of Benedictine Christian Education. In recent years, the SBCAF has been accredited by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), entitling the donors to full or limited tax deductions or exemptions from donor's tax.

In today's changing education landscape, the SBCAF remains a formidable partner of the San Beda College Alumni Association in bringing its 117-year old Catholic Benedictine school to an even better and brighter future. Very proud as we are of the SBCAF's successful past, it is to the Alumni Foundation's present and promising future that all grateful and loyal Bedans must look into and work hard for.

This year 2017, the SBCAF celebrates its milestone 20 years of service to Bedan education. A special coffee table book is now being prepared to commemorate this important event. This coffee table book is a tribute to the founders, benefactors, past and present SBCAF board of trustees. It is the SBCAF's way of expressing gratitude to the many Bedans and friends who helped and continue to assist the SBCAF in realizing its vision and mission. Mr. Arnel Patawaran, Editor-in-Chief of the Lifestyle Section of the Manla Bulletin and Mr. Hector Reyes, Editor of Sense and Style Magazine together with Dr. Joffre Alajar will serve as editors and writers of this special book.

For this special project, the SBCAF will be launching its newly revised logo which hopes to capture the spirit that guided and inspired many Bedans who established the SBCAF and who continue to make this relevant in today's 21st century Bedan education.



# THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S LINE

Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan (GS '62, HS '66)



## San Beda College Alumni Foundation ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT *June 2016 to May 2017*

I am pleased to report to the SBCAF Board, the programs and accomplishments of the SBCAF under my watch as President during the period of AY 2016-17.

### I. MILESTONES

1. The SBCAF was granted a five-year accreditation by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) as a registered donee institution, subject of a communication letter signed by PCNC Executive Director Luis P. Morales last June 3, 2016. This five-year PCNC Accreditation is a testament of our good governance and management of our SBCAF through the past many years.
2. The Association of Foundations (AF) approved the Application for Membership of the San Beda College Alumni Foundation. The Orientation of the New AF members was held at the AF office 11/F Aurora Tower, Aurora Blvd. Araneta Center, Cubao Quezon City, September 28, 2016.
3. The establishment of the Jorge Z. Ortoll Distinguished Professorial Chair in Information Technology. The Php1Million donation was received by Dr. Joffre M. Alajar in the office of Mr. Ortoll in Makati City last September 19, 2016.
4. The continuous planting of Philippine native trees in various parts of the country, thus raising awareness of protecting the environment through this SBCAF advocacy undertaking.
5. The ability of our Students Scholarship Program to support potential topnotchers and future professionals.
6. The SBCAF approved the tree-planting ceremony and the Installation of an outstanding Bedan Andrew L. Gotianun, Sr. Commemorative Marker at San Beda Rizal campus.
7. The establishment of the SBLAA/Ramon S. Ang Distinguished Professorial Chair in Law.
8. The Establishment of the Enrico "Rikki" U. Dee Professorial Chair in Entrepreneurship

### II. STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Received full student scholarship grants/financial assistance courtesy of various alumni:

<b>Name of Scholar</b>	<b>Year Level/Course</b>
<b>PLDT-Smart Foundation, Inc.</b>	
Patricia Anne Alcantara	4th year, BS Accountancy
Maria Concepcion C. Ignacio	4th year, BS Psychology
Jemima Kesia V. Melgar	2nd year, BS Economics & Public Policy
Samantha Louise B. Ramirez	3rd year, BSBA Financial Management
Rolly A. Velasco, Jr.	3rd year, BS Information & Comm. Technology
Vincent R. Vergara	3rd year, BS Accountancy
Clyde Aley Gracello D. Dela Cruz	3rd year, BS Nursing
Dina Joy T. Olivares	2nd year, BS Nursing
<b>Security Bank Foundation, Inc.</b>	
John Paul Ma. P. Faigal	2nd year, BS Accountancy
<b>Punongbayan &amp; Araullo Foundation</b>	
Alyssa Michaela S. Marcial	4th year, BS Accountancy
Matthew Corsey R. Binsol	3rd year BS Accountancy
<b>Rebisco Foundation, Inc</b>	
Jonalie J. Abion	BSBA Human Resource Mgt. 4th year
Princess Mae E. Adalin	BSBA Operations Management, 3rd yr.
Jamil B. Ambrocio	BS Accountancy, 2nd year
Jobel J. Arroyo	BS Accountancy, 2nd year
Kimberly Joy A. Buhayo	BSB Marketing Management, 3rd yr.
Geraldine S. Casabal	BSBA Financial Management, 4th year
Geraldine S. Casabal	BSBA Financial Management, 4th year
Zcharina C. Durliman	BSBA Operations Management, 3rd yr.
Karl Wendell C. Erang	BSBA Financial Management, 3rd yr.
John Mac T. Millan	BS Accountancy, 4th yr.
Carlina M. Mostrales	BSBA Operations Management, 4th yr.
Carmela Irish May DC. Pacheco	BSBA Operations Management, 4th yr.
Dhanna Mary S. Rivero	BS Accountancy, 3rd yr.
Novbah B. Somorostro	BS Accountancy, 2nd yr.
<b>Angelicum Charitable Foundation</b>	
Francis P. Faigal	Grade Eleven

## **SBCAF - PLDT-Smart Foundation Scholars**



**dela Cruz**



**Ignacio**



**Melgar**



**Olivares**



**Ramirez**



**Velasco**



**Vergara**



**Alcantara**

## Rebisco Foundation, Inc.



Abion



Ambrosio



Arroyo



Bahayo



Casabal



Darhuan



Milan



Mostrebas



Pacheco



Samorastro

## Punongbayan & Araullo



Marcel



Daniel

## Security Bank Foundation



Felgel

### III. PROFESSORIAL CHAIR

The board approved eight (8) Professorial Chair holders for AY 2016-17, as follow: **Dr. Liwayway H. Acero** - Eugenio Lopez Distinguished Professorial Research Chair; **Dr. Joffre M. Alajar** - George T. Yang Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business Management; **Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante** - Isidro and Victor Consunji Distinguished Professorial Research Chair; **Atty. Alden Reuben B. Luna**- Raul S. Roco Distinguished Professorial; Chair in Philosophy, Literature



Professorial Chair Holders



**Atty. Alden Basbas B. Lana - Raul S. Roco Distinguished Professorial Chair in Philosophy, Literature and Humanities**



**Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante - Isidro and Victor Conzaga Distinguished Professorial Research Chair**



**Dr. Nomar M. Alviar with SECAF Treasurer Ed Favila**



**Dr. Jeffre M. Alajar - George T. Yang Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business Management**



**Dr. Bryan Bustamante, Dr. Lheyway Acero, Dr. Jeffre Alajar and Dr. Marvin Reyes**



**Edilberto B. Viray, Jr. - Arturo R. Macapagal Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business and Economics**

and Humanities; **Dr. Jennifer T. Ramos - Roberto G. Coyiuto, Jr. Distinguished Professorial Chair in Marketing and Corporate Communications; Dr. Marvin R. Reyes - Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Distinguished Professorial Chair in Social Sciences; Edilberto B. Viray, Jr. - Arturo R. Macapagal Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business and Economics; and Dr. Nomar M. Alviar - Capt. Gregorio S. Oca Distinguished Professorial Chair in Labor Relations.**

# STRIVE TO LIVE MEANINGFUL LIVES

*by Dr. Ramon Ricardo A. Roque, CESO I, Diplomat  
College of Arts and Sciences, San Beda Alabang  
Commencement Exercises  
April 6, 2017*

*Philippine International Convention Center Pleasery Hall*



I suddenly remembered that today is April 6. I graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in San Beda on April 5, 1980 and my first day of work was on April 6, 1980 here at the PICC.

The respectable and respected Very Reverend Dom Clement Ma. Henson Roque, Order of St. Benedict, Rector, my good friend, Dr. Cecilia Navarro, Vice President for Academics and Dean of the Graduate School of Business, our beloved Dean, Dr. Andres Ignacio Chito C. San Mateo, Jr., our administrators, faculty members, nonteaching personnel, alumni, parents and loved ones, and the members of the graduating class of 2017, good afternoon.

My sincerest appreciation for inviting me to be your commencement speaker during the initial term as Dean of Dr. Chito San Mateo.

There is no institution I care about more deeply which goes beyond time and personalities than our San Beda College. And I am truly joyful seeing it grow and advance as a foremost learning institution that it is today. While San Beda Alabang is relatively young, it has already produced equally outstanding Bedans who now continue making a big difference in the life of the nation and the global community. Being a Benedictine school, I am confident that San Beda Alabang has provided you the uniquely Benedictine kind of education that it has always been known for and admired about here and abroad. Today, the spotlight is on you. And I, together with your school administrators and professors, hope and pray that your CAS Class of 2017 will make San Beda even prouder as you leave school to be on your own.

Let it be emphasized, that being graduates of this prestigious institution has a corresponding Call for Responsibility. Remember that we all live in challenging times that call for even greater responsibilities. In many ways, Bedan education has really been a preparation for life's many responsibilities. In this significant seat of learning in Alabang, your childhood dreams flourished and were realized as you mature in an ever-changing and tumultuous society.

As you move on to fulfill your chosen careers, you bring with you the confidence and the legacy of a rich Benedictine education. While our school stressed academic excellence, it has more importantly taught its students to live meaningful lives, and today, I wish to share with you how life may be lived to make it truly meaningful. These are some tenets of success to living meaningful lives and such have guided me through all these years.

## **PURPOSIVENESS**

Beef up your college diploma with a higher sense of purpose. I am sure that during your four years of stay in San Beda, you have been made to deeply understand the meaning of "purpose in life". You need to have a better understanding of what lies ahead. While you are not expected to have the ability to foretell what will happen in the future, you are expected to fully understand where, as a leader, you are taking your career and also your organization. A leader with a clear purpose does not only know where to go, but also knows why and how to go there.

Remember, a Bachelor's degree holder without a purpose is like a first class pilot flying a plane without knowing where to land. A purpose-less leader is only scary, he is also devoid of any value of leadership.

## **OPENNESS**

More than ever, you are expected to have the tenet of openness in your character as a graduate and a leader. With economic developments happening every minute of every day, you must be open to any ideas and seize opportunities for success by effectively managing change. With change becoming the name of the game, leaders must have a firm



**The Bedan Herald**  
 Photo by Marc Jull Le Comble

grasp of organization development. Openness can be translated to success if the organization is able to effectively adopt the change that goes with it.

**WHOLISM**

As pointed in your Bedan education time and time again. We, as Bedans, are rooted in the tradition of service to others above one's self, and passionately reinvigorated by esprit de corp. A rare synergy that is uniquely manifested by the oft repeated phrase: "Once a Bedan, always a Bedan." The allegiance to our Alma Mater and that reserved for our motherland may seem different but they are not. The tenet of wholism is a permanent bond that remains founded on fidelity and obedience. Even as the search for productive employment beyond our national boundaries gains your priority, we are obliged to remain loyal to our school and to our country. Therefore, in both instances, we should be ready and willing to contribute to the development and welfare of San Beda College and of the Philippines as united Bedans and united Filipinos.

**TRANSFORMATION**

You should also strengthen your degree with the tenet of transformation. Do not be contented with

what is, nor should you feel relaxed and elated by accomplishments for improving on what was. A leader concerns himself not only with what's new, but more importantly on "what should be new." In the age of Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, keeping oneself up-to-date is already a tall order. But being "up-to-date," one can only hope for survival, not leadership and success. Success belongs to those who dare to innovate; those who always thirst for something new and something better.

**INTERRELATIONSHIP**

Purposiveness, Openness, Wholism, and Transformation are not only about you as leaders; Interrelationship is about the people who will help you make your purpose a reality; they are about the people who will see your openness and wholism possible and they are about people who are both the agents and targets of transformational strategies and initiatives.

Leaders derive strength from the people in the organization. Saying that people are any organization's most important assets is indeed an understatement even in this era of technological advancement and information age. Thus, I stress to you that the tenet of Interrelationship among your



peers, your fellow classmates, your future officemates, and all the people in your social circles will help smoothen your way towards the road to success.

### **CONTROL**

I am definitely sure that you are bound to succeed in any direction you are heading to. Backed up with strong Benedictine values, you are armed with consciousness to distinguish the right from the wrong path. I am talking about the tenet of control. Money and power have its own repercussions. One must know how to control yourself and stay on what is right all the time, even if you are in government. We have seen it in the news, Bedan appointments in key government positions are highly noted from public's eyes. We, as Bedans, must uphold our values and principles in service and avoid tarnishing the great name of our institution.

With these tenets of how to live meaningful lives, go forth and pursue the never-ending challenge of continuously educating yourself and putting your talents to good and proper use. Play a significant role in national and global developments and bear even the heavier burden of responsibility to rebuild our Filipino nation.

Today, as you set your sights on pursuing your chosen career, hold close to your dreams. More importantly, find it in your heart to really serve your country and help safeguard its future. The Filipino nation today, more than anytime, needs a patriotic turnaround. We are all painfully aware of our people's long-time sufferings. Yet, we do not lose hope for our nation and for the future since we have faith in the Filipino, faith in yourselves and faith in the essential goodness of every man.

On this day of joy and triumph, take time to cherish the happiness and pleasant memories that San Beda

College Alabang has gifted you with through the past many years. Remember the school's motto: ora et labora (work and prayer). Find time for prayer, no matter how pre-occupied you may be. Sometimes, we take prayer for granted and may even think it is as a way of the weak. But in truth, prayer is the strongest weapon given to us.

On this special day, we also remember your beloved teachers and all other teachers whose dedication and commitment to their vocation have brought many more Bedans into the future. They are the previous jewels of San Beda College.

As we recall and pay tribute to your teachers, we especially remember with gratitude the Benedictine monks who for more than one hundred years, have faithfully worked to realize the school's mission through prosperous and troubled times.

This special and memorable occasion in your life will never be complete without you, my dear graduates, paying tribute to the people whose dreams made it possible to realize your own dreams of studying at San Beda Alabang, the people who are not only God's instrument in giving you the gift of life but who have modeled love as one of life's most precious gifts - your parents. Today's celebration is also about family. It is all about mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, as well as grandparents, uncles and aunts coming together to be one in celebrating a milestone - your graduation. Though I am certain that your parents would like you to be in the limelight today, there is no doubt that they should share the limelight as well.

My dear graduates, take a good look at your batchmates. Take a good look around and make it a point to see every member of your class. For truly, after tonight, just as what all college classes before you have experienced, there will be no occasion in the future where one hundred percent of you will be gathered again.

Parting ways is difficult and saying goodbye to San Beda, your second home for at least four years, is not easy. But remember, one has to go away for one to have an opportunity to come back. While you are away, remember also that in life, you win some, you lose some - but it is in losing that your character honed at San Beda will be put to a great test. And when that time comes, we are very confident in your ability to rise up and start anew. As Bedans, you are not expected to win all the time, but yes, as Bedans you are expected to be better persons for God, our country and our people after victory or defeat. May the Lord show you the way toward the truth,



**The Bedan Herald**  
 Photo by Marc Jalis La Comole

freedom, and justice that we all yearn for - and may our Lord Almighty bless you with enough courage and hope as you face the uncertain future.

Many happy memories which brought about useful lessons come to my mind now:

First, you can adlib once, you can adlib twice but not all the time (At 58, I still proceed to every meeting well prepared).

Second, I make sure that every new employee in Congress meets me on his/her first day and I tell them 4 things. First, best effort. It doesn't have to be the best as long as it is your best. Second, ethics and confidentiality. Sure, there are many interesting things you came across at work. Hindi bagay sa Bedista ang tsismoso at tsismosa. Third, attendance to the basics. I cannot imagine how one can be so good if you are always out unless there are provisions for work at home. Fourth, you MUST be happy.

Third, it is not enough that you do not do evil. We must do good and stay on what is right all the time. There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience.

Fourth, for our dear parents, if you want our children

to be responsible, we must be responsive.

Fifth, perpetual prosperity comes to those who help others. This is tried and tested.

Sixth, importance of options - yung bang girlfriend o boyfriend nyo, pinili nyo dahil walang kaiba-iba?

And lastly, it is very okay to have ambitions. But ambitions must always be tempered with human values.

As we part our ways together, may all of you treasure these lifelong lessons as my gifts and as your tools in achieving more fruitful and meaningful years to come. As there were great Bedans in past century, so will there be great Bedans in this new century. Let the great Bedans of the past continuously serve as inspirations and models, and let the great Bedans of the 21st century sparkle with the CAS Class of 2017 shining brightest.

Go forth, strive to live meaningful lives, and forever be Filipino men and women of prayer, work and peace.

Go San Beda Fight! Thank you.

# San Beda Class '62 / '66 A Golden Celebration

Was it Victor Hugo who coined the phrase "It was the best and worst of times" Though centuries and culturally distant, the year 1966 was a period of change and rebellion. There was mistrust towards authority.

Change had to happen may it be the way we grew our hair, the flower power and substance abuse was unintentional but was a byproduct of raging hormones. 1966 was the year of academic accreditation. To be rated as one of the highest standards meant extra work load demanded from the faculty and the student body.

The standards were exceeded and on graduation day a sense of relief was felt but it was saying goodbye to our youth. Fast forward 25, 40 and 45 years the classmates bonded tighter as life did what it has to do. In 2006 a group of classmates gathered at a resort in Bagac, Bataan. It had no specific agenda except to renew friendships. For some it was a first homecoming after decades of absence. At sunset multitudes of baby turtles were released to the open sea. The tiny creatures faded in moments. A marine biologist mentioned that only a handful shall come back to the shores. We could have been those baby turtles and here we are back to where it all begun. We may be a shadow of the youthful 17 year old on graduation day. A step slower and traces the vicissitudes life has given to us, we have journeyed back to where our Benedictine education begun.

We have shared life's beautiful moments. We have shared life's sad moments and as our numbers diminish the bonds are tighter than ever.

Unlike the turtles we still believe that the best is yet to come. The rock group the Turtles popularized a song "so happy together" that's the spirit of class 66.

"Where have all the flowers gone?"

Here we are the best of friends.

ed abad/nonnie abad/butch africa/val agonias/let aguada/alex agulla/boy agullar/jun alday/mario alegre/Charles ang/andy apostol/rody arrieta/ed azcona/manny bautista/tito beltran/roger Bermudez/many bondoc/regie bondoc/amang buencamino/willi buhay/jose cabarrus/boji cabochon/gary cabrera/bobbitt calderon/jun cases/boy castillo/leonardo chan/philip chan/chris chua/ricardo co/art constantino/sid consunji/tony cotoco/many cristobal/philip cruz/jun de castro/djoma de guzman/mike de guzman/alan dela cruz/elmer dela cruz/rene dela pena/jay de vera/dong de vera/johnny del rosario/nerl dionisio/romy dorotan/jimmy duran/ernie Enriquez/john Enriquez/romy Enriquez/robert escolar-chua/do esguerra/diego esquivel/eric evangelista/tito faigal/toby fernier/jimmy tan/jack garcia/jimmy gil/go kian luy/peter go/eddie gonzalez/chito gonzalez/denle guloy/alex hao/toti hernandez/pete hernando/chito lbaney/gerry Isada/atek Jacinto/ray Jacinto/mike lachica/marl lacson/henry lao/joey leagogo/klko legaspi/peewee leynes/boy lligon/joe lmoanco/boy luansing/eddie magallon/jun magbanua/bling magpayo/chato maneru/dan manimtim/tom manning/bok marty/joselu matti/ben mayuga/butch Mendoza/jeng Mercado/dilip mirchandani/linden morales/felicisimo nepomuceno/jess nuguid/jake ocampo/tiko ong/kit Ortega/sonny panaligan/rolly panlillo/mandy parades/dan perico/pons preysler/dan quinto/danny relucio/tito reyes/hermie reyes/sonny reyes/man rius/bobbitt rivera/ody Roberto/erie rosete/tony rublo/dick ruebe/ernie san diego/willy sanchez/acus saqueton/jun sare/rolly sinense/louie sison/ding soqueno/Emmanuel Soriano/jun tablan/rene tady/greg tan/leo tan/gerry teotico/abet ticzon/ning tirona/jun trinidad/alvin valle/lito venida/rene verano/gerry vicencio/abet villarosa/alfonso yap/caty yuengtan



## “So You Are Graduating, What Now?”

*(Address of DICT Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalme during the San Beda CAS Commencement Exercises held last May 29, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center)*

Have you seen the movie *“The Patriot”*, starring Australian actor Mel Gibson?

In one scene of that movie, actor Mel Gibson, playing the starring role, uttered:

**“I want peace, I want family,  
I want home. But these are  
nothing without freedom!”**

Since I got married to this job as the first Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), a radical shift from private to public life, have lost my freedom.

This is the second time that I lost my freedom. The first was when I married my wife.

Levity aside, without freedom man is a Nothingness. It is in freedom and in the exercise of that freedom that man establishes his self and his identity. Through freedom, man defines and attains his completeness, his essence, and his Being. Through freedom, man evolves from Nothingness to Being.

### SALUTATION

Minutes from now you will be proclaimed *graduandi* of the San Beda College. So what? What now?

First off. Look up to and for your parents and your loved ones, your benefactor, your Alma Mater, the San Beda College, Mendocino - the Benedictines, its professors, the living community, all that make San Beda a great institution- and say with felt sincerity **“THANK YOU!”**

What does it profit us when we say *“Thank you?”* When we say that simple phrase, we, too, praise and thank the good Lord, because God, in his ways unfathomable, had showered you His blessings thru the intermediation of your fellow man.

You thank then the Lord for His Infinite Goodness!

Forty-eight (48) years ago, I was in the same situation as you are now, a restless young man, brimming with hope as I faced a new world uncertain and a future unknown. Back to where I am now, this poignant occasion reminds me of the movie *“TROY”*, with Brad Pitt as Achilles in a starring role. In one scene of that memorable movie, King Priam, played by the great Peter O’Toole, whilst trying to recover from Achilles the body of his son Hector (slain by Achilles) to give his son a decent burial, uttered:

**“No father have had a better son.”  
Today, in the solemnity of this  
occasion, I say in reverse:  
“No son have had a greater father.”**



Christopher Plummer, in the movie *"Man in the Chair,"* spoke to a restless young man out to conquer the world, though deeply troubled in his search of his "self". To the youngster, he advised: *"Remember, there is a difference between ACTIVITY and ACHIEVEMENT."* I shall not explain. I assume you know the distinction between the words. Otherwise, you should not graduate today.

Dream and dream big but with feet rooted on the ground. As you rise and progress upward, you must take deeper roots. Look back. Or else, you may simply collapse with the sheer weight of your unanchored dreams.

Second. So you will look for a job after your graduation. For what? To live a life of independence? To be of service to others? To your family, to your siblings?

Go watch your English first. When interviewed for job application about your Alma Mater, SAY: I was graduated from (or by) the San Beda College, Mendocino. DON'T SAY: I graduated from San Beda College. Because you, on your own or by your own, do not graduate from any school. It is your school which "graduates" you (from the Latin term "gradus" or steps and "gradus" or to take a degree) by grading you, by marking you degree by degree for every advance in learning, every school semester, year by year, and thereafter you are conferred a "Degree" by your school. That is the reason why at the end of every graduation rites, the highest school authority says to the graduand: *"ox I now proclaim you as graduates (of the school)"*.

If accepted for employment, work solely because you love your work, and (unthought-of) promotion or success will just come as a matter of course.

*"Occasionally you may worry unduly about where your job is going to get you - whether it is sufficiently strategic or significant. Of course these are pertinent considerations and you would do well to*

I am the son. And San Beda College is that great father.

Thank you SAN BEDA for all the scholarships, the support, and all the blessings you had showered on me since then and to date. But I cannot thank you more than enough, for what I am, for what I will be.

*"We had joy, we had fun. We had seasons in the sun."* (Terry Jacks). Those were the days, your happy, carefree schooldays, all gone and past. Because *"there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."* (Ecclesiasticus)

No sooner, you will be entering the real world and your ideals, your conscience, even your faith in your personal God, will be sorely tested.

These tests are the crossroads that will confront you in critical moments of your life. Your critical choices in life, of choosing one route as against another divergent road, will, in the end, either make or unmake you.

Harken, listen to Robert Frost's:

*"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
somewhere ages and ages hence;  
two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the  
one less traveled by, and that has made all  
the difference."*

- *The Road Not Taken*

In this adult world, you are yet a child. Be brave. For in this real world, you must face, embrace and live by the truism that life is hard. And if you do not get hurt, you will never learn a thing.



*take some stock of them. But by and large, it is fundamentally true that if you take care of your present job well, the future will take care of itself. This is particularly so within large corporations, which constantly search for competent people to move into more responsible positions. Success depends so largely upon personality, native ability, and vigorous, intelligent prosecution of any job that it is no exaggeration to say that your ultimate chances are much better if you do a good job on some minor detail than if you do a mediocre job as a project leader. Furthermore, it is also true that if you do not first make a good showing on your present job you are not likely to be given the opportunity to try something else more to your liking."*

*-The Unwritten Laws of Business, W.L. King, pp. 5-6*

However menial or unimportant your early works may appear, give them your best efforts. Do not ever think that minor chores are beneath your dignity as college graduates and unworthy of your training. At work, the spirit, the energy & effectiveness with which you tackle your first humble assignments will, most likely, be watched carefully and may affect your entire career.

**CONCLUSION**

The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is anchored on, among others, two (2) key objectives:

- 1. War on drugs; and
- 2. Corruption which has stunted and stifled in many ways the growth of our people and country.

Corruption does violence, silently and oftentimes stealthily, against the well-being of our people, even as it

destroys the soul and the moral fabric of our Nation.

Do help in building a Nation of and for our children, in the best way you can. You are the cream of the crop. He to whom much blessings were given must share his blessings.

I appeal to all of us here present to and for change towards a better Nation, for the sake of our people- the President's reason-for-being and battle-cry, particularly for the generations yet to come after us.

Even as we thank our forebears for what and where we are now. Let us pay it forward. And, without any expectation, the generations after us will, in their time, look back kindly at us and thank us for the nurturings and achievements we had extraordinarily done for them.

Even while in the private pursuits of our chosen profession, we can be of public service.

Assert your leadership in your home-community for the public good. Leadership is never of form. It is all about content. For leadership is all about moving forward, improving the lives of others, and making a difference.

Remember too that progress does not simply roll-in with





the inevitable passage of time. Therefore, we must create in time and innovate always because everytime is the right time to do what is right.

Believe in yourself, believe in every cause worth fighting for, and even dying for, because the latter is the ultimate test of man's belief.

Even in private life, achieve by pursuing your cause for our country and people no matter the overwhelming odds or the costs. For as Albert Einstein said:

**“If you do not believe in magic or any form of mystery, you are good as dead.”**

In our pursuit of public service, if you dare care to tread that normally untrodden path, never regret of things that we should not do and, therefore, we must not. Rather, we must regret every time and every moment in our life of all things that we should have done but we did not.

Martin Luther King, Jr., the leader of the colored people of America, a universal man, once said and I re-word: The trouble in our little universe starts when we chose to remain silent on things that matter.

For so long, Us Filipinos have been too noisy on things that do not matter, worse, we are silent, even divisive, on things that matters most to Us as a Nation. Just listen to the present rumblings in the wind.

It would be unpatriotic of us to let our country down when trouble comes were we to simply remain silent and just set idly by.

Sadly:

“ ‘Social gains’, ‘social aims’, ‘social objectives’ have become the daily bromides of our language. The necessity of a social justification for all activities and all existence is now taken for granted. There is no proposal outrageous enough but what its author can get a respectful hearing and approbation if he claims that in some undefined way it is for ‘the common good’.

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“The greatest guilt today is that of people who accept collectivism by moral default; the people who seek protection from the necessity of taking a stand, by refusing to admit themselves the nature of that which they are accepting the people who support plans specifically designed to achieve serfdom, but hide behind the empty assertion that they are lovers of freedom, with no concrete meaning attached to the word; the people who believe that the content of ideas need not be examined, that principles need not be defined, and that facts can be eliminated by keeping one's eyes shut. They expect, when they find themselves in a world of bloody ruins and concentration camps, to escape moral responsibility by walling: But I didn't mean this!”

- *Anthem (1946), Ayn Rand, pp.IV-V*

Billy Crystal, a great American comic, on the death of his equally great friend, boxer Muhammad Ali, made a stirring eulogy by calling the latter “*The Greatest*”, not for his being human but humane, for his humanity and service to his fellowmen. And comparing life to light, Billy



**Crystal said and I paraphrase:**

**Life, your life, my life, like light, is best when we share its warmth, its brilliance, to people and their homes.**

**This calls to mind again the great Martin Luther King Jr., who fought for equal rights of his colored people and, in so doing, shook the world with his "I Have a Dream" oration when he said: I have a dream that someday my people will be honored not by the color of their skin but by the intrinsic merit of their character.**

**To all of you, *graduandi*, and those with us today, never dream of changing and improving our country unless change first comes from us, and from within us. Change is in Us because Change is Us.**

**Prove the integrity of your person by the worthiness of your acts for our country and people.**

**Finally, don't give up your dreams. For if you do you die like the mountain mists on foggy but sunlit mornings.**

**Believe in our country's transformation towards a Nation of and for our Children. Towards that end, believe in change. But first, is Us.**

**In this real, oftentimes cruel, world, you gotta believe in magic!**





# Ms. Nenita A. Luna, CPA, MBA

## San Beda's "Trusted Soldier" Ends 39 Years of Dedicated Service to Bedan Education

by Joffre M. Añajar

Our one and only College Comptroller of many decades (1978-2017) would have love to stay for some more years. But God must have bigger plans for her beyond San Beda that three years before her compulsory retirement, she decided to let go and let God take her to a new mission beyond San Beda.

Last July 31, 2017, Ms. Luna brought to a close a beautiful chapter in her life in San Beda which she always considered her home for 39 years. Whatever San Beda is today: its stability, and its being financially robust, can be attributed mostly to Ms. Luna's brand of leadership of the Accounting office built on her personal core values of integrity and genuine concern for this Benedictine institution.

For many Bedans who saw her work up close and personal, she is considered a beacon of integrity-someone who literally devoted her life to serving San Beda, and never once sought recognition. While her leaving San Beda sometimes brings tears and sigh, Nita, as her associates and friends endearingly call her, would fondly recall her happy days with heartfelt gratefulness to the revered Fr. Bernardo Perez, OSB (+), Fr. Robert de Jesus, OSB (+), Fr. Andy Formilleza (+), Fr. Odilard Arceo, OSB (+), Fr. Plo Lomibao, OSB (+), Fr. Mateo de Jesus, OSB and other Benedictines and individuals who believed in her, and her critical role in the building of San Beda for many years, especially during the most difficult



episodes in the College's 117 years of existence.

A Certified Public Accountant and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree holder from De La Salle University, Nita, a small and dainty woman, hails from Bicol, and decided to remain an unmarried bloke but forever thankful for her single blessedness. She exhibited a steely strength as she went through her tough job as San Beda's "financial architect," and found inner peace and joy in life hearing daily Masses and keeping her faith alive and well.

Today, after retirement, life is all about taking care of her beloved "nanay" and family members, and enjoying aloneness in her modest home which she considers her "place of solace."

The entire San Beda College Alumni Association wishes her well and expresses unbounded

gratitude to her many years of dedicated and committed service which helped build San Beda as a great Catholic learning institution that it is today. Your life's best is yet to come!





**Best Wishes to all  
BEDANS**

**Serving the Government**

*Greetings from the SBC Law Alumni Association*



## Serving the Nation the Bedan Way

by Atty. Jonas de Leon Cabochan



What makes the Philippines and San Beda College so connected these days? It's President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. Now it can be told that when the Filipino nation elected its first Bedan President in 2016, the entire Bedan Community was so elated, and awaited with much interest, the new Cabinet officials and other appointees of their fellow Red Lion President.

And so it came to pass, with the San Beda Law Alumni Association (SBLAA) and the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA) hosting a number of testimonials and/or activities to honor all the distinguished Bedan Alumni whom the President have chosen to be with him in serving the nation. We thus, applaud them all, confident that the Bedan ideals of faith (*fides*), knowledge (*scientia*) and virtues (*virtus*) will be truly manifested in their day to day actions and initiatives that will indubitably redound to the benefit of the Filipino nation. We thank therefore the SBLAA and SBCAA for taking the lead in honoring Bedans in the President Duterte's administration.

Now that the dust has settled, and the newly appointed Bedans have buckled down to work to

improve lives of the Filipino people, let it be on record that long before the election of our first Bedan Philippine President, innumerable Bedans have already been in government service. Their skills, expertise and talents, more so their integrity, independence, love of country and sense of mission have been well recognized even by our past Presidents, worthy of emulation by anyone who wish to be in public service.

So lest we forget, there are countless Bedans who served and continue to serve the nation **The Bedan Way**. These revered Bedans are the career civil servants who, regardless of who is President of the Republic, would keep the wheels of government service going. Many of them have shown that they too have stayed true to Saint Benedict's ideals of "*Ora et Labora*" and they continue to contribute to nation building. While some of them had been recognized in the past, countless others have remained unrecognized. They nonetheless bring glory to San Beda, our Country and God. Such is also true of Bedans in the private sector who have made a big difference in the life of our nation.

Thus, to all Bedans serving the nation be in the public or private sector, we salute you for your unselfish contributions to our country and people. You are undoubtedly, Our Unsung Heroes.

Mabuhay ang Bedista!

That In All Things, God May Be Glorified!



**Smart**



**“ As we steer our nation towards a stronger and more prosperous future, I ask each of you to draw strength from our unique fraternal bond, reminiscent of our days in Mendiola, as you continue to bring honor and distinction to our beloved alma mater. ”**

**-Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
President of the Republic of the Philippine**

**That in all Things God may be Glorified  
U.I.O.G.D.**