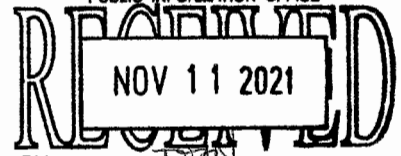




Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



BY: JOAN
TIME: 10:05

EN BANC

IN RE: LETTER OF ATTY.
JOSE C. CORALES, CLERK OF
COURT VI, OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COURT,
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT,
BATANGAS CITY, relative to the
filing of criminal case against
Hermogenes M. Guico, Jr., Clerk
III, same office, for Violation of
R.A. No. 9165.

A.M. No. P-12-3049

Present:

GESMUNDO, C.J.,
PERLAS-BERNABE,
LEONEN,
CAGUIOA,
HERNANDO
CARANDANG,
LAZARO-JAVIER,
INTING,
ZALAMEDA,
LOPEZ, M.,
DELOS SANTOS,
GAERLAN,
ROSARIO, and
LOPEZ, J., JJ.

(Formerly A.M. No. 12-2-31-RTC)

OFFICE OF THE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR,
Complainant,

- versus -

HERMOGENES M. GUICO, JR.,
CLERK III, OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COURT,
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT,
BATANGAS CITY,
Respondent.

Promulgated:

June 29, 2021

X-----X

DECISION

LOPEZ, J., J:

This administrative case stemmed from a Letter¹ dated September 23, 2011, wherein Atty. Jose C. Corales (*Atty. Corales*), Clerk of Court VI of the

¹ Rollo, p. 3.

Regional Trial Court, Batangas City (*RTC-Batangas City*) wrote the Office of the Court Administrator (*OCA*), requesting the latter office for instruction on the proper course of action following the filing of a criminal case against Hermogenes M. Guico, Jr. (*Guico*), Clerk III of the same court.

FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL ANTECEDENTS

On September 23, 2011, the Assistant City Prosecutor of Batangas City charged Guico before the RTC-Batangas City with violation of Article II, Section 11 of Republic Act (*R.A.*) No. 9165, the “Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Acts of 2002,” in an Information² which reads:

CRIMINAL CASE No. 17123

That on or about September 21, 2011 at around 11:30 in the evening at Brgy. Sta. Clara, Batangas City, Philippines and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, the above-named accused, not being authorized by law, did then and there knowingly, willfully, and criminally possess or have under his custody and control one (1) heat sealed transparent plastic sachet containing Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, more commonly known as *Shabu* [*Shabu*], a dangerous drug, weighing 0.06 gram, which is a clear violation of the above-cited law.³

Officers of the Batangas City Police Station responded late September 21, 2011 to a shooting incident involving an alyas “Apaw.” As Apaw's known residence was in Villa Anita, *Barangay* (Brgy.) Sta. Clara, Batangas City, the police proceeded thereto to form a “blocking force” in the hopes of cutting him off. While the police were stationed thereat, Guico rode his motorcycle out of Villa Anita and, despite being accosted by the police, just sped on. The police chased him until his motorcycle toppled over and he just ran, whereupon they caught up to and apprehended him. Police Officer 1 Rudy C. Añonuevo, Jr. (*PO1 Añonuevo*) asked Guico who he was, and Guico identified himself, mentioning that he was a government employee. PO1 Añonuevo then frisked Guico for weapons or illegal items, which search yielded a packet that PO1 Añonuevo believed to be *shabu*, along with two (2) pieces of aluminum foil, and two (2) disposable lighters.⁴

The police requested the conduct of a laboratory examination on the seized substance,⁵ for which the forensic chemist found that the specimen tested positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride, or *shabu*.⁶ Guico also tested positive for *shabu* use following a Request for Drug Test⁷ dated September 22, 2011.

² *Id.* at 5-6.

³ *Id.* at 5.

⁴ *Id.* at 8, 13 and 18.

⁵ *Id.* at 25.

⁶ *Id.* at 26.

⁷ *Id.* at 30.

While Criminal (*Crim.*) Case No. 17123 proceeded before Branch 7 of the RTC-Batangas City, the Court issued a Resolution dated March 5, 2012, re-docketing the Letter dated September 23, 2011 as a regular administrative matter, requiring Guico's comment, indefinitely suspending him from office pending resolution of *Crim.* Case No. 17123, and suspending the administrative case pending final outcome of the criminal case.⁸

Eventually, Branch 7 of the RTC-Batangas City convicted Guico in a Decision dated October 22, 2014, disposing as follows:

WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered finding accused-appellant HERMOGENES GUICO, JR. y MERCADO GUILTY beyond reasonable doubt of violation of Section 11 of Article II, R.A. No. 9165 and is hereby sentenced to suffer imprisonment for twelve years (12) and one (1) day as minimum up to fourteen (14) years as maximum, and to pay a fine of ₱300,000.00.⁹

On appeal, the Court of Appeals (*CA*) Special Sixth Division, in CA-G.R. CR No. 37519, acquitted Guico by a Decision¹⁰ dated April 22, 2016, the dispositive of which reads:

WHEREFORE, the Decision dated October 22, 2014 of the trial court is REVERSED and SET ASIDE. Accused-appellant Hermogenes Guico, Jr. y Mercado is ACQUITTED of the crime of [I]llegal [P]ossession of [D]angerous [D]rugs on ground of reasonable doubt; accordingly, he is ordered to be immediately released from detention, unless his continued confinement is warranted by some other lawful cause.¹¹

In so disposing, the CA ruled that the substance seized from Guico was inadmissible in evidence, since he was apprehended and searched without a warrant for either intrusion. As the officers fashioned a blocking force for intercepting Apaw after a shooting incident, such circumstances bore no relation to Guico's apprehension, arrest, and search for dangerous drugs, and his flight from the police was erroneously appreciated as guilt.

Following the CA's Decision dated April 22, 2016, the Court issued a Resolution¹² dated October 3, 2016, referring the case to the OCA for evaluation, report, and recommendation. Thus, in a Memorandum¹³ dated January 12, 2017, the OCA recommended that:

1. respondent Hermogenes M. Guico, Jr., Clerk III, Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Batangas City, Batangas, be found

⁸ *Id.* at 58-59.

⁹ *Id.* at 95.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 91-107.

¹¹ *Id.* at 106.

¹² *Id.* at 109-110.

¹³ *Id.* at 111-119.

GUILTY of grave misconduct pursuant to Section 46 (A) (3), Rule 10 of the Revised Rules for Administrative Cases in the Civil Service; and

2. respondent Guico, Jr. be ordered DISMISSED from the service with cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, except accrued leave credits, and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.¹⁴

The OCA capitalized on Guico's positive result for drug use, upon which his administrative guilt could be premised:

It is of no moment that only a criminal case for illegal possession was filed against respondent. The fact remains that he was found positive for drug use. Indeed, respondent had no duty to raise a defense for drug use, which is not the subject of the criminal case. However, he may still be held liable for any other flagrant violation of the law arising from the facts in the criminal case.¹⁵ (Underscoring in the original)

Ultimately, due to the gravity of the OCA's recommended penalty, the instant case was referred to the Court *En Banc*.

ISSUE

Whether Hermogenes M. Guico, Jr. may be held administratively liable for testing positive for use of methamphetamine hydrochloride

RULING

The Court absolves Guico of any administrative liability in the absence of any incriminating evidence that may be used against him.

Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution provides:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

In relation thereto, Article III, Section 3(2) provides for an exclusionary rule of evidence, thus:

¹⁴ *Id.* at 118-119.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 117.

Any evidence obtained in violation of this or the preceding section shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding. (Underscoring supplied)

That the provision excludes “any evidence” obtained in transgression of the privacy of communication or correspondence and the right against unreasonable searches and seizures evinces the intent of the Framers of the 1987 Constitution not to limit the exclusionary rule only to evidence directly obtained in violation of those rights. So long as the evidence sought to be presented is fairly traceable to the illegal search or seizure or the intrusion into privacy, then the same must be excluded. Indeed, no restrictions or limitations should be read into the law where there are none; especially so when what is at stake are fundamental liberties, such as the right against unreasonable searches and seizures, as the Court has declared in *People v. Tudtud*:¹⁶

The Bill of Rights is the bedrock of constitutional government. If people are stripped naked of their rights as human beings, democracy cannot survive and government becomes meaningless. This explains why the Bill of Rights, contained as it is in Article III of the Constitution, occupies a position of primacy in the fundamental law way above the articles on government power.

The right against unreasonable search and seizure in turn is at the top of the hierarchy of rights, next only to, if not on the same plane as, the right to life, liberty and property, which is protected by the due process clause. This is as it should be for, as stressed by a couple of noted freedom advocates, the right to personal security which, along with the right to privacy, is the foundation of the right against unreasonable search and seizure “includes the right to exist, and the right to enjoyment of life while existing.” Emphasizing such right, this Court declared in *People v. Aruta*:

Unreasonable searches and seizures are the menace against which the constitutional guarantees afford full protection. While the power to search and seize may at times be necessary to the public welfare, still it may be exercised and the law enforced without transgressing the constitutional rights of the citizens, for the enforcement of no statute is of sufficient importance to justify the indifference to the basic principles of government.¹⁷ (Citations omitted)

More canonically, the Court, in *People v. Alicando*,¹⁸ interpreted the evidentiary rule to exclude, not only evidence obtained directly from the unlawful search or seizure, but also secondary or derivative evidence originating therefrom, thus:

We have not only constitutionalized the Miranda warnings in our jurisdiction. We have also adopted the libertarian exclusionary rule known as the “fruit of the poisonous tree,” a phrase minted by Mr. Justice Felix

¹⁶ 458 Phil. 752 (2003).

¹⁷ *Id.* at 788-789.

¹⁸ 321 Phil. 656 (1995).

Frankfurter in the celebrated case of *Nardone v. United States*. According to this rule, once the primary source (the “tree”) is shown to have been unlawfully obtained, any secondary or derivative evidence (the “fruit”) derived from it is also inadmissible. Stated otherwise, illegally seized evidence is obtained as a direct result of the illegal act, whereas the “fruit of the poisonous tree” is the indirect result of the same illegal act. The “fruit of the poisonous tree” is at least once removed from the illegally seized evidence, but it is equally inadmissible. The rule is based on the principle that evidence illegally obtained by the State should not be used to gain other evidence because the originally illegally obtained evidence taints all evidence subsequently obtained. We applied this exclusionary rule in the recent case of *People vs. Salanga, et al.*, a ponencia of Mr. Justice Regalado. Salanga was the appellant in the rape and killing of a 15-year old barrio lass. He was, however, illegally arrested. Soldiers took him into custody. They gave him a body search which yielded a lady's underwear. The underwear was later identified as that of the victim. We acquitted Salanga. Among other reasons, we ruled that "the underwear allegedly taken from the appellant is inadmissible in evidence, being a so-called “fruit of the poisonous tree.”¹⁹ (Citations omitted; underscoring supplied)

Hence, the foregoing doctrine has been used by the Court to exclude written confessions which only distilled in writing some extrajudicial confessions previously declared before a counsel who was not independent;²⁰ to render inadmissible a bayonet, used as an instrument to a killing, where information regarding such weapon was obtained through an uncounselled confession, and the waiver of counsel was improperly made;²¹ to deem as tainted the money and necklace, sought to be introduced as evidence in a prosecution for robbery with homicide, which was retrieved following the accused's uncounselled admissions thereon;²² to exclude information derived from an uncounselled confession;²³ and, more recently, to bar evidence derived from a subsequent search of the accused's house after his illegal arrest.²⁴

Similarly, Guico's positive result for drug use may not be used against him as this is a fruit of the poisonous tree, the tree being the methamphetamine hydrochloride illegally seized from him following his apprehension late evening of September 21, 2011. The fact that the present case is administrative in nature does not render this principle inoperative.²⁵ The poisoned tree and its tainted fruits are “inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding.”

In its Decision dated April 22, 2016, the CA ruled as illegal Guico's warrantless arrest, search and seizure, considering that, under the

¹⁹ *Id.* at 690-691.

²⁰ *People v. Januario*, 335 Phil. 268, 293 (1997).

²¹ *People v. Domantay*, 366 Phil. 459, 473 (1999).

²² *People v. Bariquit*, 395 Phil. 823, 847 (2000).

²³ *People v. Tulin*, 416 Phil. 365, 383 (2001).

²⁴ *People v. Cariño*, G.R. No. 234155, March 25, 2019.

²⁵ *Anonymous Letter-Complaint against Atty. Miguel Morales, Clerk of Court, Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila*, 592 Phil. 102, 119 (2008).

circumstances, the officers had not established probable cause to arrest and search him for violation of R.A. No. 9165:

In this case, the police officers were not surveying the area of arrest for the presence of drug violators. Neither did they have any informant's tip that the area was a known place for drug users or drug pushers. In fact, the police officers were called upon to form a blocking force to apprehended (sic) a certain alias "Apaw" who was a suspect in a shooting incident, which they did not also witness at all. The word "Apaw" is another term for "pipi" or mute.

Accused-appellant was not, at the time of his warrantless arrest, committing a crime, nor was it shown that he was about to do so or that he had just done so in the presence of the arresting officer. He was merely riding a motorcycle at the time. Notably, when the policemen chased accused-appellant, they had no personal knowledge to believe that he was actually possessing illegal drugs.²⁶

Significantly, the CA had no reason to rule on the inadmissibility of Guico's positive result for use of methamphetamine hydrochloride as CA-G.R. CR No. 37519 only concerned a prosecution for Article II, Section 11 (possession of dangerous drugs) of R.A. No. 9165. Still, the subsequent drug test on Guico was performed by virtue of Article III, Section 38 of R.A. No. 9165, which requires the conduct of laboratory examination on persons apprehended or arrested for violating provisions of R.A. No. 9165. Truly, the Request for Drug Test dated September 22, 2011 was addressed to the Provincial Crime Laboratory Office to test Guico "who was arrested on or about 11:30 PM, 21 September 2011 at Brgy. Sta. Clara, Batangas City for Violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165." Thus, the positive results of the drug test were more than fairly traceable to Guico's illegal arrest, search, and seizure, thus tainting the positive drug test result and rendering it inadmissible for the instant, as well as any other proceeding.

In the cases of *People v. Fatallo*²⁷ (*Fatallo*) and *People v. Angeles*²⁸ (*Angeles*), which both involved prosecutions for Article II, Sections 5 (sale of dangerous drugs) and 15 (use of dangerous drugs) of R.A. No. 9165, the Court ultimately dismissed the complaint filed against the accused therein because the integrity of the seized substances was not preserved in accordance with Article II, Section 21 of R.A. No. 9165, on the chain of custody rule. In *Fatallo*, this Court wrote :

With the acquittal of Fatallo in relation to the charge of violation of Section 5, R.A. 9165, it follows then that he should likewise be acquitted as to the charge of violation of Section 15, R.A. 9165.

²⁶ *Rollo*, pp. 98-99.

²⁷ G.R. No. 218805, November 7, 2018.

²⁸ G.R. No. 237355, November 21, 2018.

The case for violation of Section 15, R.A. 9165 was filed because Fatallo tested positive for use of methamphetamine hydrochloride after he was subjected to a drug test following his arrest. This was done in compliance with Section 38, R.A. 9165, which states:

X X X X

Thus, Fatallo was subjected to a drug test as a result of his apprehension which, as already explained, was conducted in violation of Section 21, R.A. 9165. Section 21, R.A. 9165 is a statutory exclusionary rule of evidence, bearing in mind that, under the Rules of Court, 'evidence is admissible when it is relevant to the issue and **is not excluded by law** or these rules.

The results of the drug test cannot therefore be used against Fatallo for they are considered, under the law, as the 'fruit of the poisonous tree.' x x x²⁹ (Citations omitted; emphasis and underscoring in the original)

The Court went further in *Angeles*, ruling that:

The accused-appellant was thus subjected to a drug test as a result of his apprehension which, as already illustrated, was conducted in violation of Section 21, RA 9165 – a rule that is a matter of substantive law and cannot be brushed aside as a simple procedural technicality. Section 21, RA 9165 is a statutory exclusionary rule of evidence, bearing in mind that, under the Rules of Court, 'evidence is admissible when it is relevant to the issue **and is not excluded by the law** or these rules.

X X X X

Applied in the present case, since the apprehension of the accused-appellant by the police officers was illegal for non-compliance with the procedure provided by Section 21, RA 9165, it therefore follows that the drug test conducted on him was likewise illegal for it is an *indirect result* of his arrest. Otherwise stated, if the accused-appellant was not arrested in the first place, he would not have been subjected to a drug test because Section 38 refers to 'any person apprehended or arrested for violating the provisions of this Act.' As the accused-appellant was not proved to have violated any of the provisions of RA 9165, then the drug test conducted on him has no leg to stand on. The accused-appellant must perforce be also acquitted of the charge of violating Section 15, RA 9165.³⁰ (Citations omitted; emphasis, italics, and underscoring in the original)

Analogously, Guico's positive result for use of methamphetamine hydrochloride may not be used against him, being the indirect result of his illegal arrest, search and seizure. The drug test was premised on his supposed violation of Article II, Section 11 (possession of dangerous drugs) of R.A. No. 9165, for which he was acquitted since the methamphetamine hydrochloride seized therefor was rendered inadmissible. Moreover, *Fatallo* and *Angeles* concerned only **statutory** exclusionary rules of evidence,

²⁹ *People v. Fatallo*, *supra* note 27.

³⁰ *People v. Angeles*, *supra* note 28.

whereas the present exclusionary rule is **Constitutionally-enjoined**. Given the primacy of the Bill of Rights, with all the more reason should the exclusionary rule benefit Guico in the instant administrative proceedings.

Thus, the Court cannot agree with the recommendations of the OCA that Guico be declared guilty of grave misconduct and ineligible to receive retirement benefits.

Lastly, Guico wrote the Court a Letter³¹ dated September 28, 2020, manifesting his intention to retire from service, and withdrawing his request for reinstatement³² since the Court's Resolution dated March 5, 2012 indefinitely suspending him. Consistent with the Court's exercise of administrative supervision over court personnel,³³ the Court construes Guico's Letter as a tender of resignation and hereby accepts the same,³⁴ with the withdrawal of the request for reinstatement deemed an abandonment thereof. Thus, Guico's position of Clerk III of the RTC-Batangas City is deemed vacant.

The instant controversy presents a balancing of interests between, on one hand, the Court's interest to uphold the dignity and integrity through all the ranks of the Judiciary and, on the other, the right against unreasonable searches and seizures. Concededly,

An admitted drug user has no place in the ranks of the Judiciary. As the Court held in *Office of the Court Administrator v. Reyes*, “all members and employees of the Judiciary are expected to **adhere strictly to the laws of the land, one of which is [RA 9165] which prohibits the use of dangerous drugs.** xxx [T]he conduct of a person serving the judiciary must, at all times, be characterized by propriety and decorum and above all else, be above suspicion so as to earn and keep the respect of the public for the judiciary. The Court would never countenance any conduct, act or omission on the part of all those in the administration of justice, which will violate the norm of public accountability and diminish or even just tend to diminish the faith of the people in the judiciary.”³⁵ (Citations omitted; emphasis in the original)

Still, the Court cannot be the first to run roughshod upon the cherished rights of the people enshrined in the Constitution.³⁶ For which reasons,

³¹ *Rollo*, p. 128.

³² *Id.* at 75.

³³ Const., Article VIII, Section 6. *See also* OCA Circular No. 36-97, June 9, 1997, Reorganization and Strengthening of the Office of the Court Administrator.

³⁴ *Re: (1) Lost Checks Issued to the Late Roderick Roy P. Melliza, Former Clerk II, MCTC, Zaragga, Iloilo; and (2) Dropping from the Rolls of Ms. Andres*, 537 Phil. 634, 650 (2006). “To constitute a complete and operative resignation from public office, there must be: (a) an intention to relinquish a part of the term; (b) an act of relinquishment; and (c) an acceptance by the proper authority. The effectivity of her resignation commences from the time this Office approves the same after she is cleared from all her obligations for purposes of determining her entitlement to her separation benefits.” (Citation omitted).

³⁵ *Office of the Court Administrator v. Salazar, Jr.*, A.M. No. 15-05-136-RTC, December 4, 2018.

³⁶ *1-United Transport Koalisyon v. Commission on Elections*, 758 Phil. 67, 84 (2015).

criminal or administrative prosecution, considering that these involve the mobilization of government machinery which at times infringes on civil liberties, must be the last resort in the drive to purge the Judiciary's ranks of errant court employees. The first line of defense must be to filter competent and qualified employees, followed by initiatives to keep existing employees away from dangerous drugs, among other illicit acts.

In pursuit thereof, Supreme Court Memorandum Order No. 18-05, "Establishing a Program to Deter the Use of Dangerous Drugs and Authorizing the Conduct of Random Drug Testing on the Personnel of the Judiciary," acknowledges the "need for a program to deter the use of dangerous drugs by the personnel of the Judiciary and institute preventive measures against drug abuse for purposes of eliminating the hazards of drug abuse in the Judiciary[.]" Hence, various Court offices were mandated to "(1) Institute preventive measures against drug abuse including the education and awareness of officials and employees of the Judiciary on the ill-effects of dangerous drugs; (2) Conduct, in coordination with government forensic laboratories random drug testing on all officials and employees of the Judiciary, subject to the conditions set forth in R.A. No. 9165; and (3) Closely monitor officials and employees of the Supreme Court and all lower courts who may be susceptible to drug abuse and report to the Court, for appropriate action, any official or employee found and confirmed to be dependent on dangerous drugs."

This issuance begot Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 21-06, "Guidelines for the Implementation of the Drug Prevention Program for the First and Second Level Courts," which operationalizes random drug testing, rehabilitative efforts, and information campaigns in order "1. To detect the use of dangerous drugs among lower court employees, impose disciplinary sanctions, and provide administrative remedies in cases where an employee is found positive for dangerous drug use[;] 2. To discourage the use and abuse of dangerous drugs among first and second level court employees and enhance awareness of their adverse effects by information dissemination and periodic random drug testing[; and] 3. To institute other measures that address the menace of drug abuse within the personnel of the Judiciary."

Finally, Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 13, Series of 2010, "Guidelines for a Drug-Free Workplace in the Bureaucracy," institutes mandatory drug testing; advocacy, education, and training; and general health and well-being programs, to eradicate drug use in the civil service.

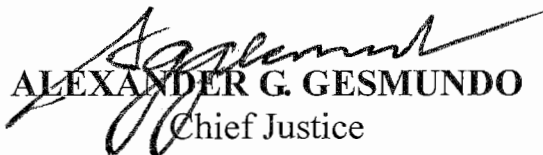
Efforts towards these fronts should not be overlooked, so that, at the first instance and all throughout their service, the Judiciary employs narcotics-free personnel.

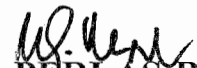
WHEREFORE, Hermogenes M. Guico, Jr., Clerk III of the Regional Trial Court of Batangas City, is **ABSOLVED** of any administrative liability, and deemed **ELIGIBLE** to receive his retirement benefits, but is given a **STERN WARNING** that further involvement in any misdemeanor will be dealt with more severely. Guico's former position as Clerk III of the Regional Trial Court of Batangas City is declared **VACANT**.


SO ORDERED.

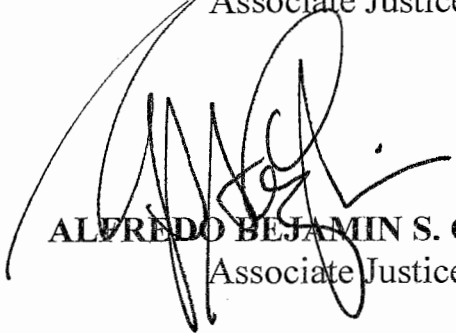

JHOSEP Y. LOPEZ
 Associate Justice

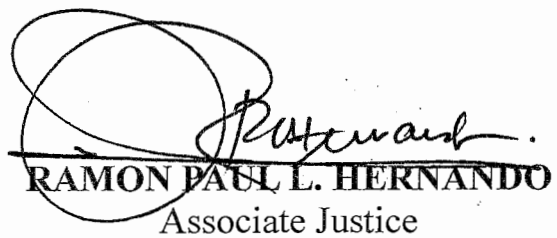
WE CONCUR:


ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO
 Chief Justice


ESTELA M. PERLAS-BERNABE
 Associate Justice


MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN
 Associate Justice


ALFREDO BEJAMIN S. CAGUIOA
 Associate Justice

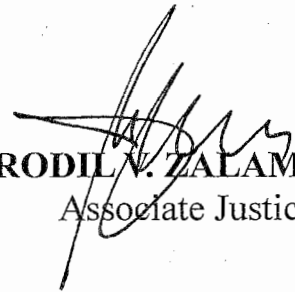

RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO
 Associate Justice


ROSMARI D. CARANDANG
 Associate Justice

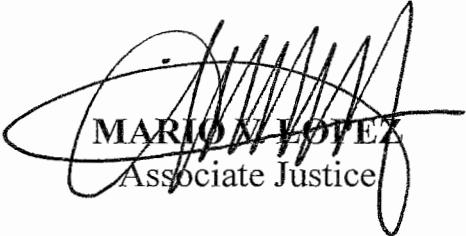

AMY C. LAZARO-JAVIER
 Associate Justice



HENRI JEAN PAUL B. INTING
Associate Justice



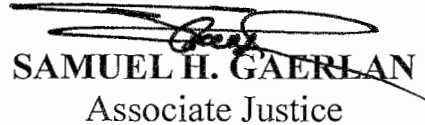
RODIL V. ZALAMEDA
Associate Justice



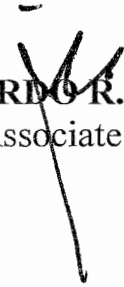
MARIO A. LOPEZ
Associate Justice




EDGARDO L. DELOS SANTOS
Associate Justice



SAMUEL H. GAERLAN
Associate Justice



RICARDO R. ROSARIO
Associate Justice

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MARIFE M. LOMBAO-CUEVAS
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court