

IBP INDUCTS NEW PRESIDENT



The new President of the country's only compulsory organization of lawyers was inducted last Tuesday by Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno and the Supreme Court *En Banc*.

Atty. Abdiel Dan Elijah "Ade" S. Fajardo succeeds Rosario Setias-Reyes whose term of office as President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) ended on June 30, 2017.

Ade Fajardo is a former President of IBP Antique Chapter and Governor for Western Visayas region. He also served as Executive Vice President under Setias-Reyes. Fajardo is a member of the University of the Philippines College of Law class of 1998.

In his inaugural speech Tuesday evening, Fajardo warned against the decreasing influence of lawyers, whose role in society being tested, and challenged, in a manner no different from what journalists are facing today.

"Journalists all over the world are in a struggle for survival against an unexpected new enemy – Fake News," Fajardo said. He pointed out a similar experience among lawyers, whose currency is falling because of the erosion of the rule of law.

"There are some who have come to see that certain objectives may be met or, should be met, unencumbered by legalities. Nothing can be more self-destructive," Fajardo said. He added that, "the erosion of the rule of law, if it is to come, should not be openly advocated by those sworn to uphold it. If this ideal is not enough, perhaps a practical warning would be: A society that attains its objectives in a manner that flouts the law has no need for lawyers."

Also inducted as new members of the Board of Governors of the IBP are: **Domingo Cayosa** as Executive Vice President and Governor for Northern Luzon, **Carmelita Eleazar-Reyes** as Governor for Central Luzon, **Marie Fe Galvez-Garcia** as Governor for Greater Manila, **Elaine Gay Raneses Belen** as Governor for Bicolandia, **Sixto Jose Antonio** as Governor for Southern Luzon, **Marienne Ibadlit** as Governor for Western Visayas, **Gonzalo Malig-on, Jr.** as Governor for Eastern Visayas, **Charles Rasonable** as Governor for Western Mindanao, and **Dennis Bacala** as Governor for Eastern Mindanao.