



Integrated Bar of the Philippines

THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF A.M. No. 17-03-09-SC OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “RULE ON COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICE”

RULE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This shall be known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of A.M. No. 17-03-09-SC otherwise known as the “Rule on Community Legal Aid Service,” and hereinafter called the “CLAS Rules.”

SECTION 2. *Rationale.* – The legal profession is imbued with public interest. As such, lawyers are charged with the duty to give meaning to the guarantee of access to adequate legal assistance under Section 11, Article III of the 1987 Constitution by making their legal services available to the public in an efficient and convenient manner compatible with the independence, integrity and effectiveness of the profession. As a way to discharge this constitutional duty, covered lawyers as defined herein are obliged to render *pro bono* legal aid services to those who otherwise would be denied access to adequate legal services.

SECTION 3. *Scope.* – Compliance with this CLAS Rules shall be mandatory for all covered lawyers to render *pro bono* legal aid services to qualified parties and/or litigants, as defined herein.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this CLAS Rules, the following terms shall be understood as they are defined under this Section:

- (a) “**Covered lawyers**” shall refer to those who have signed the Roll of Attorneys in year 2018 and onwards.
- (b) “**Pro Bono/ Free Legal Aid Service**” shall refer to legal services as defined in Section 6 hereof.

For purposes of this CLAS Rules, the *pro bono*/ free legal aid service shall be supervised as provided herein.

(c) **“Indigent Party”** shall refer to those defined under Rule 3, Section 21 of the Rules of Court which provides that an “indigent party” is one who has no money or property sufficient and available for food, shelter and basic necessities for himself and his family. The test for indigency shall not be based on a set financial amount but rather on the capacity to afford the services of counsel after considering his or her basic necessities for himself or herself and his or her family.

(d) **“Indigent Litigants”** shall refer to those defined under Rule 141, Section 19 of the Rules of Court.

Further, a party shall be considered as an indigent if (i) his gross monthly income and that of his immediate family combined does not exceed an amount double the monthly minimum wage of an employee in the place where the party resides and (ii) he does not own real property with a fair market value, as stated in the current tax declaration, of more than Three Hundred Thousand (Php300,000.00) Pesos.

(e) **“Other Persons of Limited Means”** shall refer to persons or marginalized groups and entities who may not be covered by Sections (c) and (d) hereof but would, under the circumstances, not financially able to afford the services of counsel. This includes farmers, indigenous peoples, children in conflict with the law, victims of gender violence, and such other similar groups as may be approved by the IBP.

(f) **“Law School Legal Aid Office”** is an office or center under a law school’s clinical legal education program duly organized and accredited under Rule 138-A (The Law Student Practice Rule) to render legal assistance and services to indigent parties and/or litigants as defined herein.

(g) **“Public Interest Law Group”** is any group, association, institution, office, or center duly-organized and with a specific and clear mandate to assist specific marginalized sectors of society in their legal needs. For purposes of this CLAS Rules, such a group must have been organized and in active service of its mandate for at least five (5) years prior to the effectivity of A.M. No. 17-03-09-SC.

- (h) **“Accredited Legal Aid Service Providers (ALASP)”** are legal aid offices duly accredited with the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC) where covered lawyers may render *pro bono* legal aid service. These offices shall include:
- i. Law organizations regularly rendering legal aid services;
 - ii. Developmental Legal Assistance Groups and Alternative Law Groups rendering developmental legal assistance as defined under Section 6(c) hereof;
 - iii. Public Interest Law Groups, as defined herein;
 - iv. Law School Legal Aid Offices, as defined herein; and
 - v. Law firms which handle cases for persons of limited means, as defined herein, or marginalized groups and entities. This shall include law firms with established legal aid departments or which regularly render *pro bono* legal aid service or act as counsel *de officio*;
- (i) **“Integrated Bar of the Philippines” (IBP)** is the official national organization of lawyers in the country.
- (j) **“National Center for Legal Aid” (NCLA)** is the national office of the IBP which is specifically tasked to monitor legal aid programs of all IBP Chapters and handle legal aid cases. The NCLA, without need of OBC accreditation, shall also be a legal aid service provider under this CLAS Rules.
- (k) **“IBP Chapters”** are those located in the different geographical areas of the country as defined in Rule 139-A of the Rules of Court and the By-Laws of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. The IBP Chapters shall be the primary legal aid service providers under this CLAS Rules.
- (l) **“IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee”** is the committee of the IBP Chapter which will supervise the covered lawyers in the rendition of free legal services under this CLAS Rules.
- (m) **“Law Firm”** refers to a private law firm or office with a *pro bono* program intended to provide free legal aid services and assistance to indigent parties and/or litigants. A law firm/office which shall apply for accreditation with the OBC shall secure an endorsement from the IBP Chapter which has jurisdiction over the place where its

office is located. The concerned IBP Chapter is hereby authorized to impose such other reasonable requirements and/or fees for endorsement.

- (n) **“Office of the Bar Confidant”** (OBC) is the office of the Supreme Court that has custody of the Bar records and personal records of lawyers. It assists the Supreme Court in disciplining the Bar by investigating complaints against lawyers and Bar candidates. For purposes of this Rule, it shall be the Office that accredits legal aid service providers, as defined herein, and certifies compliance or non-compliance by covered lawyers.
- (o) **“Home Chapter”** refers to the IBP chapter to which the lawyer belongs.
- (p) **“Host Chapter”** refers to the IBP chapter of which the lawyer is not a member but to which the lawyer has chosen to report for the purpose of compliance with this CLAS Rules. For this purpose, the NCLA may be considered as Host Chapter.

SECTION 5. *Qualified Parties or Litigants.* – *Pro bono* legal services may be provided to the following qualified parties and/or litigants under this CLAS Rules:

- (a) Indigent Parties and/or Litigants, as defined herein;
- (b) Other persons of limited means, as defined herein;
- (c) Individuals, groups, or organizations rendered unable to secure free legal assistance by reason of “conflict of interest” on the part of government-provided legal assistance through the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO), provided they are qualified under the means and merit tests under the NCLA guidelines or manual of operations. Provided further, in all legal aid cases of whatever nature, the PAO may invoke “conflict of interest” only in civil, criminal or administrative cases with several defendants/accused/ respondents having conflicting defenses. Provided finally, the giving of legal advice or the preparation of affidavits/ complaints/documents in any case shall not be a ground to invoke “conflict of interest”; and
- (d) Public interest cases that has societal impact and involves a group or sector of society that otherwise would not be capable

of securing legal assistance by reason of inability of other lawyers, law firms, or government offices, including the Public Attorney's Office.

SECTION 6. *Legal Services Covered.* – The following shall be considered *pro bono* legal services for purposes of this CLAS Rules:

- (a) Representation of qualified parties and/or litigants, as defined, in the trial courts in civil and criminal cases and quasi-judicial bodies in administrative cases, including proceedings for mediation, voluntary or compulsory arbitration, and such other modes of alternative dispute resolution;
- (b) Legal counseling, rendering assistance in contract negotiations and drafting of related legal documents, including memoranda of law and other similar documents that are provided to the client. Drafting may include policy work involving legal research and advocacy;
- (c) Developmental Legal Assistance, consisting of rights awareness, capacity building, and training in basic human rights, documentation, and affidavit-making, rendered in public interest cases, including legal assistance rendered by identified Public Interest Law Groups;
- (d) Legal services provided as part of employment in the judiciary, executive, or legislative branches of government and in constitutional bodies shall be considered sufficient compliance with this Rule, provided that the covered lawyer must already be in said government service at least six (6) months before admission into the Bar (oath-taking); provided further, that the legal services provided are substantive, as certified by the concerned Head of Office whose rank must be at least Director IV or its equivalent. For purposes of this CLAS Rules, the said certification should state the actual number of hours and summary of the legal services rendered;
- (e) Legal services provided to marginalized sectors and identities, such as but not limited to: (i) urban poor or informal settlers; (ii) workers/laborers; (iii) overseas foreign workers; (iv) children in conflict with the law; (v) indigenous peoples; (vi) persons with disabilities; (vii) persons involved in gender issues; and (viii) those groups as may be approved by the IBP; and

- (f) Attendance and participation in legal aid summits/conferences organized by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines National Office. Provided, however, that in no case the creditable hours shall exceed four (4) hours per seminar at the discretion of the IBP.

SECTION 7. Requirements. –

(a) *Number of Hours* – Covered lawyers, as defined under Section 4(a), are required to render one hundred twenty (120) hours of *pro bono* legal aid services to qualified parties enumerated in Section 5, within the first twelve (12) months from admission to the Bar of the covered lawyers, counted from the time they signed the Roll of Attorneys. For this purpose, covered lawyers shall report to the chairperson of their IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, or the chairperson, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider of their choice for their compliance with this CLAS Rules.

Covered lawyers who are based outside the jurisdiction of their Home Chapters may opt to report to the NCLA Director or the chairperson of the IBP Host Chapter of their choice for their compliance with this CLAS Rules.

(b) *Free Legal Aid Services on Weekends* – Upon written request duly approved by the Chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, the NCLA Director, or the chairperson, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider, any covered lawyer may comply with the requirements of this CLAS Rules on weekends. Said lawyers may also be entitled to an extension of the compliance period, upon request of the concerned lawyer as may be approved by the OBC in accordance with Section 13(b) hereof.

Covered lawyers who are working in the government, but are not exempted under this CLAS Rules, may request that their compliance be done during weekends.

SECTION 8. Exemptions. – The following shall be exempted from the requirements of this CLAS Rules upon sufficient proof of their respective circumstances submitted with the OBC:

- (a) Covered lawyers in the executive and legislative branches of government [excluding local government units (LGUs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), local water districts

(LWDs), and other similar institutions] as well as in constitutional bodies, provided that the covered lawyer must already be in said government service at least six (6) months before admission into the Bar (oath-taking). For this purpose, certifications shall be issued in accordance with Section 6(d) of this CLAS Rules;

- (b) Those already employed, upon admission into the Bar, with the judiciary, the Public Attorney's Office, the National Prosecution Service, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and the Office of the Ombudsman shall be automatically exempt from compliance with this Rule. In this regard, the concerned lawyers shall submit the necessary certificate of employment. Provided, however, that they shall undertake to remain in the government service for at least one (1) year from admission to the Bar. A violation of the said undertaking shall nullify their certificate of exemption;
- (c) Those who have already undergone and completed the clinical legal education program duly organized and accredited under Rule 138-A (The Law Student Practice Rule). Provided, that the service rendered was voluntary and not made to earn any academic units/credits;
- (d) Covered lawyers who have worked for at least one (1) year, upon admission to the Bar, in law firms offering *pro bono* legal services or regularly accepting counsel *de officio* appointments;
- (e) Covered lawyers who have worked for more than one (1) year, upon admission to the Bar, as staff of a Law School Legal Aid Office, a Public Interest Law Group, or the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; and
- (f) Covered lawyers who have worked with lawyers for Public Interest Law Groups or alternative or developmental law groups for more than one (1) year, upon admission to the Bar, and have filed public interest cases as defined in Section 5 (d) of this CLAS Rules.

For purposes of this CLAS Rules particularly items (d), (e), and (f) of this Section, there must be certificate of employment and a certification stating the actual number of hours and summary of the legal services rendered.

Within thirty (30) days from date of signing the Roll of Attorneys, any covered lawyer under this Section shall submit his/her sworn statement and Certificate of Exemption issued by the concerned office showing his/her entitlement to the exemption from the rule. Otherwise, the covered lawyer shall not be considered exempt from the Rule and, thus, he/she has to comply with this CLAS Rules.

The said sworn statement/Certificate of Exemption shall state the details of the substantive legal services rendered including the number of hours spent, which shall not be less than 120 hours, and the summary of cases handled or legal services rendered. This provision shall be strictly construed against the exemption.

RULE II - PROCEDURES / COMPLIANCE

SECTION 9. *Supervision of Covered Lawyers.* – Representation in civil and criminal cases before courts and in administrative cases before quasi-judicial agencies and the rendition of other *pro bono* legal aid services shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA Director, or the chairman, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider where the covered lawyers are registered or affiliated.

The supervision of covered lawyers may be delegated by the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee Chairperson to other elected officers or directors of the Chapter and to qualified members as may be approved by the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee Chairperson. The NCLA Director may delegate this authority to any of his deputies and assisting lawyers.

SECTION 10. *Signing of Pleadings.* – Any and all pleadings, motions, briefs, memoranda, or other papers to be filed in court or any quasi-judicial agency must be signed by the covered lawyers and co-signed by the chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA Director, or the chairman, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider.

Under exceptional circumstances, the pleadings may be signed solely by the covered lawyers only if it is urgent and in the event the chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA Director, or the chairman, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider is

unavailable, but such signature page shall indicate the name of the concerned supervising lawyer.

For this purpose, the chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee may delegate the authority to sign pleadings to other officers/directors of the IBP Chapter. The NCLA Director may delegate this authority to any of his deputies.

The name of the supervising lawyer co-signing the pleading should be properly identified and indicated in the said pleading. Any covered lawyer handling cases before the courts and quasi-judicial bodies shall be primarily responsible in the monitoring of all notices, orders, decisions, resolutions, pleadings and other processes in relation to his/her cases.

SECTION 11. *Time Log and Timesheets.* – The IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or the accredited Legal Aid Service Provider shall keep a record of the time/hours spent by covered lawyers in rendering free legal aid services to qualified parties or litigants. For this purpose, the said committee or legal aid service provider shall designate a person responsible to keep timesheets containing the number of hour(s) spent every week by each covered lawyer in rendering free legal aid services for each assigned case and/or client. Time spent in the office or at the place designated by the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider, regardless of whether there are clients attended to or not, shall also be recorded and included in the computation of the hours required by this CLAS Rules. The actual hours spent by the covered lawyers in court or before any quasi-judicial agency with the client shall likewise be recorded and counted.

The timesheets shall be authenticated by the chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA Director, or the chairperson, director, or supervising partner or lawyer in charge of the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider.

SECTION 12. *Certificate of Compliance.* – (a) Covered lawyers shall, upon completion of the required 120 hours of free legal aid services, submit an Affidavit of Full Compliance and a notarized Certificate of Compliance to the OBC issued and signed by the chairperson of the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA Director, or the chairman, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider where they are registered.

(b) The concerned IBP Chapter may impose a reasonable fee for the issuance of the said Certificate of Compliance. Any fee for the notarization of the said certificate must likewise be reasonable.

(c) Covered lawyers who obtained their certificates of compliance from the NCLA, a Host Chapter, or an Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider, as defined herein, should furnish a copy of the said certificate to their respective IBP Home Chapters. The concerned IBP Home Chapter shall then issue the corresponding CLAS Compliance Number.

SECTION 13. *Period for Compliance.* – (a) Covered lawyers shall complete the community legal aid service within twelve (12) months from the date they sign the Roll of Attorneys. Within one (1) month after the lapse of the said period, covered lawyers shall submit the Affidavit of Full Compliance and the notarized Certificate of Compliance issued by the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider to the OBC.

(b) The twelve (12) month period may be extended upon a petition duly submitted and granted by the Bar Confidant, who will furnish the Office of the Chief Justice with a copy of the order resolving the petition. The petition for extension must be filed within sixty (60) days before the lapse of the period for compliance. In the event a covered lawyer has completed the required number of hours before the end of the one (1) year period, he/she can already submit the required affidavit and Certificate of Compliance to the OBC.

(c) In order to address possible economic hardships that may be caused by strict compliance with this Rule, or for any justifiable reason (such as physical disability, illness, post-graduate study abroad, and other similar grounds), qualified lawyers may request compliance with this Rule for two (2) years. Covered lawyers who wish to avail of this privilege must file an application with the OBC, which shall determine the validity of the deferment on a case-to-case basis.

SECTION 14. *Continuous Handling or Turnover of Cases-Representation,* once entered, by covered lawyers in cases before the courts or quasi-judicial agencies, shall continue until terminated; provided, that after the twelve-month period, the requirement of supervision shall no longer be mandatory.

Should the covered lawyer, upon compliance with the Rule and lapse of the twelve-month period, be unable to continue representation of the party by reason of professional conflict of interest arising from his or her employment,

he/she may turn over the handling of the cases to the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider indicating clearly the reason for the turnover. The turned-over cases may then be re-assigned to another covered lawyer.

RULE III - PROHIBITIONS AND BENEFITS

SECTION 15. *Prohibition against Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts.*

- Covered lawyers shall not solicit, request, or accept, directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, token of gratitude, or anything of monetary value in the course of rendering the legal aid services under this Rule. Any and all legal services provided under this Rule shall be on a *pro bono* basis.

The covered lawyer, in compliance with this CLAS Rules, shall not also receive any form of monetary reward or consideration from the IBP Chapter, NCLA or the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider.

SECTION 16. *Protection of private practice or employment.* - This Rule is not intended to impair the private practice or employment of covered lawyers and of the supervising lawyers. Barring any conflict of interest or any other violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility, covered lawyers can engage in private practice and accept paid clients or be employed in the government or in the private sector within the twelve-month period for compliance.

SECTION 17. *Full Credit for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)* -

(a) A covered lawyer who successfully complies with the free legal aid service requirements of this Rule shall be given the full credit of thirty-six (36) MCLE units for the applicable three year-period, or the proportionate number of units for the cycle covered by the compliance period under the MCLE Rules.

(b) The grant of full credit shall be without prejudice to any other legislated benefits that the covered lawyer may be entitled to, such as tax exemptions and other similar benefits.

(c) Those who are exempt under this Rule shall not be given any MCLE credit units. They shall strictly comply with the rules on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

RULE IV - DUTIES OF CONCERNED OFFICES

SECTION 18. *Duties of the Office of the Bar Confidant* - The OBC shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Verify the contents of the notarized Certificate of Compliance submitted by covered lawyers with the issuing IBP Chapter, NCLA or the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider;
- (b) Keep a record of all the Certificates of Compliance/Exemption and submit it to the Court *en banc* at the end of each quarter;
- (c) Accredite Clinical Legal Aid Offices of Law Schools in accordance with the requirements of the Legal Education Board and under such Rules as the Supreme Court may promulgate;
- (d) Accredite Public Interest Groups, Developmental Legal Aid Groups, Alternative Legal Aid Groups, or Law Firms which intend to participate in this legal aid program under this CLAS Rules. The Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), and previously accredited Clinical Legal Aid Offices shall be automatically accredited by the OBC. Law firms/offices shall comply with the provisions under Section 4(m) of this CLAS Rules. The NCLA and the IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committees need not be accredited by the OBC;
- (e) Monitor the compliance of covered lawyers and the Accredited Legal Aid Service Providers with the requirements and procedures as provided in this CLAS Rules. The OBC shall furnish the IBP the list of accredited legal aid service providers;
- (f) In relation to Section 8 of this CLAS Rules, provide a CLAS Exemption Number in the Certificates of Exemption to be issued to those covered lawyers whose applications for exemption are approved. It shall also indicate the year of admission to the Bar and control number. Example: CLAS-OBC-EXMPT-PPLM(Home Chapter)-2018(Year of Admission to the Bar)-0001(Control Number).

The OBC shall furnish the IBP with the list of covered lawyers who were given certificates of exemption. Covered lawyers who were issued certificates of exemption should indicate in all pleadings filed before the courts or quasi-judicial bodies the number and date of issue of the certificate of exemption for a period of five (5) years

- from issuance thereof. Covered lawyers who are commissioned as Notaries Public shall likewise indicate said CLAS Exemption Number in their notarial details within the same five-year period;
- (g) File, *motu proprio* or upon recommendation of the IBP, administrative charges against non-compliant covered lawyers and any group/person who may be involved in any violation of this CLAS Rules; and
- (h) Provide the standard forms for the timelog, timesheets, and notarized Certificate of Compliance. The IBP may, however, recommend the said standard forms to the OBC.

SECTION 19. Duties of IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider. –

1. The IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee, NCLA or the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider shall submit to the OBC, copy furnished the Office of the IBP National President, an annual Report containing a summary of the certificates issued to covered lawyers, on or before June 30 of every year. The Report shall contain a list of the covered lawyers, the number of hours spent rendering free legal aid services, the legal aid cases involved, and the qualified parties or litigants for whom the services were rendered.
2. The NCLA Director and the Chairperson of the concerned IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee shall be allowed to exercise his sound discretion in crediting the appropriate number of hours based on the principle of *quantum meruit*. He may also exercise such discretion as may be deemed necessary to ensure compliance of this CLAS Rules.
3. The Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider, NCLA or the IBP Host Chapter shall issue a certificate of compliance with a blank space provided for the Compliance Number to be issued by the IBP Home Chapter of the concerned covered lawyer. The IBP Home Chapter need not issue a separate certificate for this purpose.
4. The concerned IBP Chapter shall verify the contents of the Affidavit of Full Compliance submitted by the covered lawyer before it issues the Certificate of Compliance.

5. The concerned IBP Chapter shall issue the Certificate of Compliance as provided under Section 12 hereof with the corresponding CLAS Compliance Number. Example: CLAS-PPLM(Home Chapter)-2018(Year of Admission to the Bar)-0001(Control Number).

Covered lawyers who were issued certificates of compliance should indicate in all pleadings filed before the courts or quasi-judicial bodies the number and date of issue of the certificate of compliance for a period of five (5) years from issuance thereof. Covered lawyers who are commissioned as Notaries Public shall likewise indicate said CLAS Compliance Number in their notarial details within the same five-year period.

RULE V - FUNDING

SECTION 20. *Expenses.* – Expenses incurred by the IBP and its Chapters in connection with the services rendered by the covered lawyers may be sourced from the IBP subsidy provided by the Supreme Court.

Expenses by the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider shall be shouldered by the respective law organization, public interest group, developmental law group, alternative law group, law school, or law firm. The Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider may, however, in exceptional circumstances request the Supreme Court for financial assistance.

RULE VI - PENALTIES

SECTION 21. *Penalties.* –

(a) A covered lawyer who fails to comply with the requirements of this CLAS Rules shall be required by the OBC to show cause in writing within ten (10) days from receipt of notice why no disciplinary action should be taken against him/her. Should the OBC find the covered lawyer's explanation insufficient to justify the non-compliance, it shall recommend to the Supreme Court that the covered lawyer be disqualified from being issued by the IBP a "certificate of good standing" as member of the Bar. It may also recommend any appropriate disciplinary measures depending on the reasons for and the gravity of the non-compliance.

(b) The IBP Chapter Legal Aid Committee shall monitor compliance with this CLAS Rules and any covered lawyer who refuses or fails to comply with the requirements shall be required by the Committee Chairperson to show

cause in writing within five (5) days from receipt of notice why he/she should not be considered delinquent or “a member not in good standing.”

(c) The concerned IBP Chapter may recommend to the IBP Board of Governors or to the Office of the Bar Confidant disciplinary action on a covered lawyer who fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this CLAS Rules.

(d) Failure of covered lawyers to disclose the required number and date of issue of their certificate of compliance or exemption in their pleadings during the five-year period would be a ground for disciplinary action.

(e) Without prejudice to criminal liability, a covered lawyer or the chairman, director, or supervising partner or lawyer from the Accredited Legal Aid Service Provider, as provided under Sec. 4(h) hereof, who falsifies the Certificate of Compliance or Exemption or such other related documents required to be submitted under this CLAS Rules shall be administratively charged by the IBP or the OBC before the Supreme Court with any disciplinary action which may include disbarment.

RULE VII - EFFECTIVITY

SECTION 22. *Effectivity.* – This “CLAS Rules” shall take effect immediately.

02 May 2018, Clark Freeport, Mabalacat, Pampanga, Philippines.


Drafted and Recommended by:

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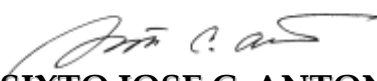
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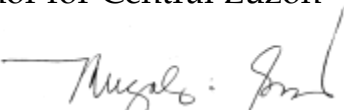
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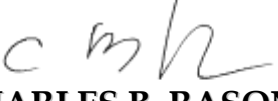

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