



Supreme Court of the Philippines

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE REVISION OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

In November last year, the Supreme Court formed the Core Committee for the National Conference for the Revision of the Rules of Civil Procedure. The Core Committee consists of Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo (Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan), Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier (Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals), Judge Thelma A. Ponferrada (Chief of Office for Administration, Philippine Judicial Academy), Dean Eduardo D. De los Angeles (Partner, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventure Sayoc & De los Angeles), Dean Danilo L. Concepcion (University of the Philippines College of Law), Atty. Roan I. Libarios (National President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines), Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria (Ateneo de Manila University – School of Law), Dean Jose Manuel L. Diokno (De La Salle University College of Law), Prof. Victoria A. Avena (University of the Philippines College of Law), Atty. Simeon V. Marcelo (Partner, CVCLAW), Atty. Victor P. Lazatin (Partner, ACCRALAW), Atty. Blessilda B. Abad-Gamo (Professor, Ateneo de Manila University – School of Law), and Atty. Edna E. Diño (Chief Attorney of the Supreme Court).

The overall controlling objective of the Core Committee is to draft and propose a revised Rules of Civil Procedure that gives true justice in all kinds of civil actions before the courts. And justice is done only if the revised rules substantially ensure the following:

1. The parties in every case are placed on equal footing;
2. The costs of litigation are reduced;
3. The courts' time and resources are wisely distributed among cases in proportion to
 - (a) the amounts involved;
 - (b) the complexity of the issues raised; and
 - (c) and the public interests in their resolution;
4. All cases are speedily heard and decided; and
5. The impartiality of the courts is enhanced and safeguarded.

The committee studied and analyzed our current rules and identified the portions which cause delay in the resolution of cases. Beginning January 2013, the Committee called upon thirty (30) remedial law experts consisting of members of the academe, judges, justices, government lawyers, and private law practitioners. These experts were subdivided into five Topical Working Groups (TWGs): 1) General Considerations and Pre-filing; 2) Filing, Pre-Trial to Trial; 3) Special Remedies During Trial; 4) Judgment, Execution and Appeals; 5) Special Civil Actions. The TWGs studied the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and various proposals from the legal community to help them in revising the rules assigned to them. The University of the Philippine Law Center (UPLC) and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) has shared some insight into the draft.



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After carefully evaluating and incorporating all the input, the Committee is publishing the **First Draft** of the Revised Rules of Civil Procedure for public comment. The **First Draft** rules is available online at various websites. To obtain a copy of the draft rules, go to the Supreme Court website at www.sc.judiciary.gov.ph. You can directly request a copy by e-mailing newcivpro@gmail.com and a soft copy in a portable document format (PDF) will be sent to your e-mail.

In line with this, the Committee, together with the Philippine Judicial Academy, UPLC and the IBP, will conduct three public consultations or stakeholders' dialogues on the following dates and venues:

- a) May 28, 2013, Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. at the Cebu Grand Ballroom, Marco Polo Hotel, Cebu City;
- b) May 31, 2013, Friday, 8:00 a.m. at the Grand Aguila Ballroom, Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City; and
- c) June 3, 2013, Monday, 8:00 a.m. at Ateneo Law School, Rockwell Center, Makati.

This activity will provide an opportunity for the stakeholders to raise their issues and concerns with the **First Draft** and to provide additional comments and suggestions in preparation for the **Second Draft** due to be presented during the National Conference scheduled in June.

Only a limited number of participants could be admitted to the venue. To reserve a slot, you can text your Full Name, Roll of Attorneys Number, contact number, e-mail address, selected stakeholders' venue to 09398264424 or call (+632) 5217241 or (+632) 5266189 and look for Atty. Katlyn Anne Aguilar or Atty. Al Conrad Espaldon. Those who will not be able to attend the dialogues may send their comments to newcivpro@gmail.com.