

FOREWORD*

*Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno***

De minimis non curat lex.

The law does not concern itself with trifles. Bringing such theory into reality, this issue of Volume 84 of the PHILIPPINE LAW JOURNAL (PLJ), indeed, encapsulates such adage, with its multifarious scope of articles that will surely spark the interest of every law student and scholar, and with its editors' impressive discernment of what legal concepts and topics the legal community is hungry for. This issue, from cover to cover, is truly a testament to the reality that the study of law is as fascinating as it is far-reaching.

The purpose of a law journal is to provide relevant legal analysis to its readers, and to focus on legal issues that are timely, and legal concepts that are innovative. At present, it is obvious that Filipinos are becoming more aware of the issues that beleaguer Philippine society, with the advent of the Internet, more efficient telecommunication facilities, more aggressive media practitioners, as well as the continuous work of numerous advocates of the freedom of information. Consequently, our people now have a firmer stand and learned opinion of the socio-political and economic concerns of the country such as economic inequities and social equality, regional conflicts and terrorism, globalization and human rights, social justice, and environmental degradation. The complexity of these issues and their significance underscore the need for more information materials to stimulate our people's intellect and passion to participate in positive change.

This issue of the PLJ remarkably addresses this demand, and effectively serves as a catalyst for a healthy debate on the subjects of the published articles. With topics centering on foreign affairs, taxation, and economics, this issue will undoubtedly be a valuable contribution to the bookshelves of many, and will pave the way for the emergence of more enlightened citizenry. Indeed, with its dedication to a multi-disciplinary approach to the Philippine legal system, it impressively captures the essence and merit of modern legal scholarship.

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