



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUPREME COURT
Manila

SPECIAL SECOND DIVISION

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court, Special Second Division, issued a Resolution dated **28 June 2021** which reads as follows:*

“A.C. No. 12161 [Formerly CBD 14-4390] (Guillermo Villanueva, representing United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. v. Atty. Bonifacio A. Alentajan). - On October 2, 2014, United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (COCOLIFE), represented by Guillermo Villanueva (Villanueva), filed a Complaint for Disbarment¹ against Atty. Bonifacio A. Alentajan (respondent) before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP). The Complaint averred that respondent is guilty of forum shopping when the verification/certification of the complaint filed before the Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 90 of Quezon City for reconveyance of title failed to state that respondent’s client had already commenced an action for the same subject property between the same parties and involving the same issues.

On June 30, 2015, the Report and Recommendation² of the Investigating Commissioner Honesto A. Villamor found respondent guilty of violating Rule 10.03, Canon 10, and Rule 12.04, Canon 12 of the Code of Professional Responsibility (CPR), and Section 5, Rule 7 of the Rules of Court. The Investigating Commissioner recommended respondent’s suspension from the practice of law for three (3) months with a warning that a repetition of the same offense shall be dealt with more severely.

On June 17, 2017, the IBP-Board of Governors (Board) adopted and approved the Report and Recommendation to suspend respondent from the practice of law for three (3) months.

On June 8, 2020, the Court promulgated a Decision³ adopting the findings of the IBP. The dispositive portion of the Decision reads thus:

¹ *Rollo*, pp. 2-15.

² *Id.* at 402-405.

³ *Id.*

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WHEREFORE, Atty. Bonifacio A. Alentajan is found GUILTY of violating Canon 1, Rule 10.03 of Canon 10, and Rules 12.02 and 12.04 of Canon 12 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Accordingly, he is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law for a period of three (3) months effective upon receipt of this Decision, with a STERN WARNING that a repetition of the same or similar acts will be dealt with more severely.

Atty. Alentajan is DIRECTED to immediately file a Manifestation to the Court that his suspension has started, copy furnished all courts and quasi-judicial bodies where he has entered his appearance as counsel.

Let a copy of this Decision be furnished the Office of the Bar Confidant to be entered in Atty. Alentajan's personal record as a member of the Philippine Bar. Further, let copies of this Decision be furnished the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Office of the Court Administrator, which is directed to circulate them for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.⁴

On June 24, 2020, a Manifestation of Death with a Copy of Death Certificate⁵ was filed informing the Court that respondent had passed away on November 1, 2018.

Thus, the Court notes the Manifestation of Death and accordingly recalls its June 8, 2020 Decision. The death of the respondent in a disbarment complaint warrants the dismissal of the case. For in personal actions such as disbarment, the right of action dies with the person. *Actio personalis moritur cum persona*.⁶

ACCORDINGLY, the Court **RESOLVES** to **RECALL** the June 8, 2020 Decision and **DISMISS** the case against respondent Atty. Bonifacio A. Alentajan in view of his demise. The case is considered **CLOSED** and **TERMINATED**.

SO ORDERED.”

By authority of the Court:

TERESITA AQUINO TUAZON
Division Clerk of Court

By:



MA. CONSOLACION GAMINDE-CRUZADA
Deputy Division Clerk of Court

28 JUL 2021

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id., Annex A.

⁶ See *Alindogan, Jr. v. Barican*, A.C. No. 8332, February 17, 2021.

Resolution

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A.C. No. 12161
June 28, 2021

LEGAL DEPARTMENT (reg)
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE
ASSURANCE CORPORATION (COCOLIFE) (reg)
Complainant
8th Floor, 6807 COCOLIFE Building
Ayala Ave., Makati City

HEIRS OF ATTY. BONIFACIO ALENTAJAN (reg)
Respondent
24 Ilongot St., La Vista, Pansol
Quezon City

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OFFICE OF THE REPORTER (x)
PHILIPPINE JUDICIAL ACADEMY (x)
Supreme Court, Manila

INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES (reg)
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City

THE BAR CONFIDANT (x)
Supreme Court, Manila

Please notify the Court of any change in your address.
AC12161. 6/28/2021(21)ssb/URES *YMA*