



Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Katarungan
Tanggapan ng Manananggol Pambayan
(PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE)
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ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR YEAR 2012

Executive Summary

☆ Clients Assisted and Cases Handled:	
▪ Total No. of Clients Assisted	6,735,603
▪ Total No. of Cases Handled	710,457
▪ Average No. of Clients Assisted by Each Lawyer	4,397
▪ Average No. of Cases Handled by Each Lawyer	471
☆ Total No. of Winning Appealed Criminal Cases	159
▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Temporal	66
▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Perpetua	93
☆ Total No. of Winning Appealed Civil and Special Cases	306
☆ Acquittals and Other Favorable Dispositions	111,059
Number of accused:	
A. Acquitted	10,687
B. Dismissed with prejudice	30,680
C. Granted motion to quash	1,147
D. Granted demurrer to evidence	1,980
E. Provisionally dismissed	30,933
F. Convicted to lesser offense	20,131
G. Granted probation	3,995
H. Won	2,423
I. Granted lesser award	441
J. Dismissed based on compromised agreement	3,172
K. Criminal Cases for Preliminary Investigation:	
K.1. Case filed in court (Complainant)	2,726
K.2. Dismissed (Respondent)	1,414
L. Pre-trial releases and other favorable dispositions:	
L.1. Released on bail (Non-bailable offense)	352
L.2. Released on recognizance	299

L.3. Diversion proceedings / Intervention	241
L.4. Suspended sentence	211
L.5. Maximum impossible penalty served	227
☆ Special Legal Services (Pursuant to Sec. 14-A of R.A. 9406 and MOAs)	17,446
☆ Rendition of Quasi-Judicial Services	422,091
Mediation and Conciliation	421,796
Investigation (R.A. 9475 or Anti-Torture Law)	295
☆ Outreach Activities	
1. Inquest Investigation & Custodial Interrogation	
▪ Total No. of Clients Assisted	110,386
☆ Nationwide Monthly Jail Visitation of District Offices	
No. of detainees / inmates:	
A. Interviewed and assisted	225,003
B. Provided legal representation in court	221,578
C. Acquitted:	
C.1. After trial	3,117
C.2. On appeal	750
D. Released on:	
D.1. Pardon / Executive Clemency / Probation	1,544
D.2. Motion to Dismiss / Motion to Quash	2,454
D.3. Inquest Assistance / Representation	3,910
D.4. Bail / Recognizance	7,052
D.5. After serving the possible maximum prison term	939
☆ PAO-Central Office Legal & Medical Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program	
▪ Total No. of Program Beneficiaries	16,292
▪ No. of Beneficiaries for Legal Assistance	2,894
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Medical Assistance	4,523
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Dental Assistance	1,217
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Optical Assistance	839
▪ Total No. of Inmates Released	6,819
☆ Legal/Inquest Proceedings Assistance	

On their scheduled duties, the public attorneys and staff of the PAO-Central Office have alternately been providing legal counseling and inquest

proceedings assistance even during night time, weekends and holidays since October 2009. For this purpose, the PAO hotline, 929-9436 (local 106 or 107 during office hours and local 159 beyond office hours), is open to the public 24/7.

In September 2010, the coverage of this program was widened for the benefit of the people that are being served by the regional and the district offices of the PAO nationwide. Since then, the said offices have been rendering legal assistance (e.g. legal advice, attending to the legal needs of suspects in the police stations within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned PAO regional/district offices) up to 10:00 p.m. everyday (including weekends and holidays) but even after 10:00 p.m., the assigned PAO inquest public attorneys and staff therein remain on call during their respective scheduled duties to attend to such inquest in the said police stations.

•	Clients served		17,459
☆	Trainings and Seminars Attended		68
▪	Training Participants	Lawyers	1,307
		Support Personnel	44

☆ Case Load

Out of 161,736 terminated criminal cases, there were 102,313 or about 63.26% favorable dispositions obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

▪	Total number of criminal cases handled	444,793
▪	Total number of cases terminated	161,736
▪	Terminated cases favorable to clients	102,313
▪	Total percentage of winning criminal cases	(63.26%)

With respect to cases involving violation of Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act), out of 36,362 terminated cases, there were 20,691 or about 56.90% favorable dispositions obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing women clients.

▪	Total number of cases involving Women victims of violation of R.A. 9262	91,730
▪	Total number of cases terminated	36,362
▪	Terminated cases favorable to Women clients victims of violation of R.A. 9262	20,691
▪	Total percentage of winning cases in favor of women	(56.90%)

On the other hand, with respect to cases involving Children in Conflict

with the Law pursuant to R.A. 9344, out of 7,856 terminated cases, there were 4,433 or about 56.43% favorable dispositions obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing CICLs.

▪ Total number of cases involving Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)	20,125
▪ Total number of cases terminated	7,856
▪ Terminated cases favorable to CICL	4,433
▪ Total percentage of winning cases in favor of CICL	(56.43%)
☆ Total number of clients assisted by the PAO-National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Sub-Station located at Banawe, Quezon City	9,446
☆ Total number of research works and legal opinions for queries from the public that were either directly addressed or otherwise referred to the PAO	1,924

The Office of the Chief Public Attorney

- A. The Office of the Chief Public Attorney received and answered 57,110 communications from January to December 2012;
- B. The Office of the Chief Public Attorney served 19,528 clients during this period;
- C. The Chief Public Attorney received the following prestigious awards, to wit:
 - Special Award for Excellence in Public Service from the Aliw Awards Foundation, Inc., given during the 25th Annual Aliw Awards presentation on 26 November 2012 at the Manila Hotel;
 - Best Public Service Program Host Award for the Reality Mediation Show “Public Atorni”, Star Awards, November 18, 2012, Ateneo De Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City;
 - Outstanding in Public Service and Legal Jurisprudence Award from Gawad Amerika, November 3, 2012, Hollywood, California;
 - Plaque of Merit from the Philippine National Police (PNP) – Legal Service, October 15, 2012, Camp Crame;
 - Exemplary Achievement Award from the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS), in recognition of her valuable contributions in advancing the cause of FAMAS to enhance the growth of Philippine movie industry, as well as in ensuring equal access to justice for the Filipino citizenry, including the people in the movie sector such as showbiz

personalities and movie writers, given on September 25, 2012, at the Manila Hotel;

- Gawad Tanglaw for Public Atorni*, the reality mediation program being hosted by Chief Public Attorney Persida V. Rueda-Acosta. She was given this award on March 15, 2012 at the Perpetual Help College in Las Piñas City. Gawad Tanglaw stands for Gawad Tagapuring mga Akademisyang Aninong Gumagalaw, which is an organization of renowned members of the academe;
- Darling of the Press Award from the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC), given during the 28th PMPC Star Awards for Movies, on March 14, 2012, at the Meralco Theater, Ortigas City;
- Certificate of Merit awarded by the Office of Scholarships and Student Services of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, for being a University Scholar (for the Second Semester of School Year 2010-2011) in the Ph.D-SD course at the College of Social Work and Community Development, given on February 22, 2012 at the Cine Adarna (UP Film Institute), UP-Diliman; and
- Gawad Chancellor from the Honorable Chancellor Caesar A. Saloma on behalf of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, for being a student achiever and recipient of the 2011 Most Outstanding Public Servant Award from the Gawad Amerika Foundation, given on February 22, 2012 at the Cine Adarna (UP Film Institute), UP-Diliman.

D. The Chief Public Attorney served as resource person to the following activity:

- Guest of Honor/Speaker, 108th Founding Anniversary of the Bulacan State University, where she delivered the presentation entitled, “Empowering the Women and Other Marginalized Groups for National Development”, December 5, 2012;
- Guest Speaker, Barangay Legal Information Dissemination conducted in Bacolod City, lecture on the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, upon the invitation of Hon. Carl V. Lopez, Councilor, City of Bacolod, November 29, 2012;
- Speaker, 14th Annual Conference of the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA), October 28 – November 1, 2012, Mexico City;
- Lecturer, Seminar-Workshop on the Codes and References for the Public Attorney’s Office, co-sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI); December 6-7, 13-14, 2012, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, November 15-16 and May 14, 2012, Cebu City;

* *Public Atorni*, was used to be shown on TV5 but is now being aired on Aksyon TV, from Monday to Friday at 7:00 p.m., at no cost to the PAO, for the program is produced by the Associated Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

September 6-7, 20-21 and July 16, 2012, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila; June 19, 2012, Laoag City; and April 16, 2012, Davao City;

- Guest Speaker, Students' Night / UE Barrister Send-Off, September 22, 2012, Bayview Park Hotel;
- Lecturer / Guest Speaker, Educational Seminar on "Justice Awareness Through Television Mainstream", September 14, 2012, Southern Luzon State University; Lucban, Quezon;
- Guest Speaker / Legal Resource Person, Opening of Bayanihan Center's SingTel and Globe Kababayan Canteen, sponsored by Globe; August 25, 2012, Singapore; and
- Lecturer, Lecture on Katarungang Pambarangay for the Local Government of Bacoor, Cavite, February 27, 2012, Alima School, Bacoor, Cavite.

E. The Chief Public Attorney personally handled and/or led the following cases and/or rendered legal assistance to the following individuals, to wit:

- The 71 civil cases filed by the PAO against Sulpicio Lines, Inc. (SLI) on behalf of the victims of the M/V Princess of the Stars maritime tragedy, are on going trial at RTC-Branch 51, Manila; same with the 64 civil cases filed against SLI at RTC-Branch 10, Cebu City. The criminal case for Reckless Imprudence is also ongoing at RTC-Branch 5, Manila;
- The PAO, through Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta, filed on behalf of Bonita Baran, charges of attempted murder, physical injuries, and serious illegal detention against the latter's former employers at the Prosecutor's Office in Quezon City on August 2, 2012. Baran was a former domestic helper, who was allegedly detained and maltreated by her previous employers until her right eye got blind.

On September 14, 2012, the Public Attorney's Office started appearing as counsel in court for Ms. Bonita Baran, under the control and supervision of the trial prosecutors. The cases where the PAO is assisting and coordinating with trial prosecutors are:

- a. Criminal Case No. Q-12-178028 entitled, "People of the Philippines versus Analiza Catahan-Marzan y Tarroza alias 'Analiza Marzan' and Reynold Marzan y Tan," for Serious Illegal Detention pending before Regional Trial Court- Branch No. 77 of Quezon City;
- b. Criminal Case No. 159544-45 also entitled "People of the Philippines versus Analiza Catahan-Marzan y Tarroza alias 'Analiza Marzan' and Reynold Marzan y Tan," for Attempted Homicide pending before Metropolitan Trial Court- Branch No. 40 of Quezon City; and

- c. Criminal Case No. 159537-43 for Serious Physical Injuries with the same title and also pending before Metropolitan Trial Court-Branch No. 40 of Quezon City.
- F. Legal and Medical Assistance to Victims of Typhoon Pablo. On December 27, 2012, the PAO Forensic Team and its Medical Team distributed relief goods and medicines to the victims of typhoon Pablo at New Bataan, Campostela Valley in Davao City with Bishop Efraim Tendero. PAO's legal team from the Central Office and public attorneys in Davao Peninsula also provided legal assistance in the preparation of Affidavits of Loss, reconstitution of titles and other legal documents for victims who were in need of the same. Three hundred thirty-seven (337) individuals benefitted from the medical/legal assistance rendered by the PAO.
- G. Climate Change Consciousness. The PAO, in coordination with The Climate Reality Project (TCRP), advocated for Climate Change Consciousness on November 19, 2012 at the PAO-Central Office. This was in connection with the observance of the National Climate Consciousness Week from November 19 – 25, 2012, per Memorandum Circular No. 35 signed on 14 August 2012 by Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa, Jr., authorized by H.E. President Benigno S. Aquino III.
- H. 3rd National Convention for the Rank-and-File Employees of the Public Attorney's Office. The PAO conducted for its more than 1,000 non-lawyer employees, the 3rd National Convention for the Rank-and-File Employees of the Public Attorney's Office that was held on October 22-24, 2012 at the Manila Hotel. The said convention coincided with the 40th Founding Anniversary of the PAO.
- I. Seminar-Workshop on the Codes and References for the Public Attorney's Office Conducted. The Seminar-Workshop on the Codes and References for the Public Attorney's Office, co-sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI); was conducted on the following dates with corresponding venues: December 6-7, 13-14, 2012, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, November 15-16 and May 14, 2012, Cebu City; September 6-7, 20-21 and July 16, 2012, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila; June 19, 2012, Laoag City; and April 16, 2012, Davao City.
- J. Creation of Victims Assistance Unit at the PAO – Central Office, Regional and District Offices, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9406 (through Memorandum Order No. 133, Series of 2012, dated July 12, 2012). The purpose of this is to address the needs of victims of mass disasters, natural calamities, torture, massacres, extrajudicial killings, and Violence Against Women and

their Children (VAWC), Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) and other similar cases of persons who have requested legal assistance from the Public Attorney's Office, on first come first serve basis.

K. Retrieval in Romblon. The PAO Forensic Team went to Romblon on July 5, 2012, and in cooperation with divers from the Philippines Coast Guard, was able to retrieve one human remains from the wrecked M/V Princess of the Stars, 70 feet below sea level, off the coast of San Fernando, Sibuyan Island in the province of Romblon. This is in connection with the legal assistance which the PAO is giving to the relatives of the victims of the M/V Princess of the Stars maritime tragedy, the latter being the clients of the PAO since June 2008.

L. Spot inspection conducted. Chief Acosta and the Spot - Inspection Team from the PAO - Central Office conducted spot inspection activities, pursuant to Department Order No. 109, dated March 8, 2005, at different district offices on various dates of 2012, to wit:

District Office/s	Date of Inspection
1. Virac, Catanduanes District Office	September 27-28, 2012
2. San Pablo, Laguna District Office	September 14, 2012
3. Tagaytay City District Office	August 31, 2012
4. Bacoor City District Office	August 30, 2012
5. Imus City District Office	August 30, 2012
6. Cavite City District Office	August 30, 2012
7. Trece Martirez District Office	August 30, 2012
8. Dasmariñas City District Office	August 30, 2012
9. Naga City District Office	August 27-28, 2012
10. Lucena City District Office	March 16, 2012
11. Mauban, Quezon District Office	March 16, 2012
12. Infanta, Quezon District Office	March 16, 2012
13. San Pedro, Laguna District Office	March 16, 2012
14. Batangas City District Office	March 15, 2012
15. Gumaca, Quezon District Office	March 15, 2012
16. Calauag, Quezon District Office	March 15, 2012
17. Rosario, Batangas District Office	March 13, 2012
18. San Mateo, Rizal District Office	March 9, 2012
19. Marikina City District Office	March 9, 2012
20. Antipolo City District Office	March 9, 2012
21. Iloilo City District Office	March 6-7, 2012
22. Nasugbu, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012
23. Lemery, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012
24. Taal, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012
25. Balayan, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012

26. Lipa City, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012
27. Tanauan, Batangas District Office	February 21, 2012
28. Tagaytay City District Office	February 20, 2012

The spot inspection made on the foregoing district offices generated these favorable results, viz:

- a) Opening of PAO-Rodriguez District Office, sponsored by the Municipal Mayor of Rodriguez, the Honorable Cecilio Hernandez; and
- b) Transfer of PAO-Antipolo District Office to a more spacious unit, sponsored by the City Mayor of Antipolo, the Honorable Danilo Leyble.

Spot inspection activities were conducted to ensure proper monitoring and accountability of PAO field offices.

M. Codes and References for the Public Attorney’s Office Launched. The “Codes and References for the Public Attorney’s Office” was launched last February 13, 2012 at the PAO-Central Office, with the Honorable Secretary of Justice Leila M. De Lima as Guest of Honor/Speaker. The said activity was also graced by Mr. Scott Ciment, Esq., Country Director of the American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). ABA-ROLI funded the publication and launch of the said PAO manual.

N. Legal Assistance to Victims of Typhoon Sendong. On January 3, 2012, 82 victims of typhoon Sendong were given legal assistance and 102 documents (e.g., affidavits of loss) were made in favor of the said clients of the PAO in an evacuation center at Tibasak, Macasandig, and Cagayan de Oro.

Earlier, on December 22, 23, 26-29, 2011, through this endeavor, the public attorneys in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City were able to render the following pro bono legal services, to wit:

No. of typhoon Sendong victims given legal assistance	1,884
No. of documents made	3,967

This is in connection with PAO Memorandum Order No. 293 dated December 19, 2011, issued by Chief Public Attorney Persida V. Rueda-Acosta, directing the public attorneys of Northern Mindanao and Dumaguete City to put up legal aid clinics at the evacuation centers within the territorial jurisdiction of their respective districts;

O. Best Practices of the Public Attorney's Office: SOJ's Choice. The presentation given by Chief Public Attorney Persida V. Rueda-Acosta on the Best Practices of the Public Attorney's Office was selected by the Secretary of Justice herself, the Honorable Leila M. De Lima, as one of the five best presentations during the DOJ's Executive Planning Session on January 12-13, 2012 at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City;

☆ Library Services

- Number of legal books and reference materials distributed to Regional and District Offices 1,411
- Lex Libris Subscription for the Central Office to facilitate research work

☆ PAO Equipment

For the period covering January to December 2012, the following office equipment were purchased, to wit:

- * Filing Cabinet (4 drawers)
Note: From 2011 budget, delivered in 2012 27 pcs
- * Filing Cabinet (2 drawers)
Note: From 2011 budget, delivered in 2012 5 pcs
- * Biometric Time Recorder 253 units
- * HP printer 63 units
- * Chairs
Swivel 42 units
Monoblock 150 units
- * Fax Machine 3 units
- * Refrigerator 2 units
- * Office Table 10 units
- * Computer Table (from 2011 budget) 32 units
- * Computer Chair 27 units

* Chair, visitors	4 units
* Air-conditioning Unit	1 unit
* Epson LX-300 Printer (from 2011 budget)	32 units
* Laptop Computer	1 unit
* Desktop Computer (from 2011 budget)	32 units
* Computer Monitor	4 units
* Paper Shredder	2 units