



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

Bar Matter No. 3489
(In Re: 2019 Bar Examinations)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 (5), Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution, the Supreme Court is vested with the power to promulgate rules concerning the admission to the practice of law;

WHEREAS, Sections 18 and 19, Rule 138 of the Rules of Court¹ provide that after the bar passers have taken their oath of office, they shall be admitted to the practice of law and receive their certificates as members of the Philippine bar upon signing the Roll of Attorneys;

WHEREAS, the 2019 bar passers have taken their oath last June 25, 2020 *via* online video conference, and the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC) has scheduled the signing of the Roll of Attorneys from July 6 to August 3, 2020 in the Supreme Court premises in Ermita, Manila;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has received separate letter-requests from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) National President, IBP Misamis Oriental Chapter, the Philippine Association of Law Schools, twenty-two (22) bar passers from Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation, Inc. in Tacloban City, Leyte, and one (1) bar passer from Puerto Princesa, Palawan, requesting for the adoption of an alternative roll signing procedure for the benefit of the 2019 bar passers who reside outside the National Capital Region, particularly those in Visayas and Mindanao, and who will be unable to travel to Manila to sign the Roll of Attorneys due to quarantine and health restrictions on account of the public health situation;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court recognizes the significance of enabling the 2019 bar passers to sign the Roll of Attorneys for their admission to the practice of law, while at the same time, acknowledges the concern and apprehension relating to the health risk of travel under the present circumstances;

WHEREAS, the OBC, upon the guidance of the 2019 Bar Chairperson, Senior Associate Justice Estela M. Perlas-Bernabe, has proposed an alternative roll signing procedure whereby:

¹ The provisions read:

Section 18. *Certificate*. — The Supreme Court shall thereupon admit the applicant as a member of the bar for all the courts of the Philippines, and shall direct an order to be entered to that effect upon its records, and that a certificate of such record be given to him by the clerk of court, which certificate shall be his authority to practice.

Section 19. *Attorneys' roll*. — The clerk of the Supreme Court shall keep a roll of all attorneys admitted to practice, which roll shall be signed by the person admitted when he receives his certificate.”

(1) The 2019 bar passers who have chosen to avail of the alternative roll signing procedure will submit, *via* postal or courier service, certain documentary requirements, including a notarized undertaking to physically sign the Roll of Attorneys and register their biometric information at the OBC located in the Supreme Court premises in Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila on or before December 31, 2020, unless such period is extended by the OBC due to public health considerations;

(2) The 2019 bar passers shall pay their bar admission and certification fees *via* postal money order or deposit to a designated bank account to be used exclusively for the payment of bar-related fees;

(3) Upon receipt of the complete documentary requirements from the 2019 bar passers, the OBC shall append such documents to the actual Roll of Attorneys for record keeping purposes and issue their certificates of membership to the Philippine Bar; and


(4) Failure to comply with the aforesaid undertaking within the prescribed period shall result into, among others, the immediate imposition of the appropriate administrative sanctions affecting one's good standing as a member of the Philippine Bar.

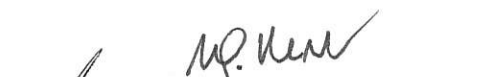
NOW, THEREFORE, the Court, sitting *en banc*, hereby **RESOLVES** to:

(a) **APPROVE** the adoption of the above-mentioned alternative roll signing procedure *pro hac vice*; and


(b) **AUTHORIZE** the Bar Confidant Rosita M. Requillas-Nacional, under the guidance of the 2019 Bar Chairperson, Senior Associate Justice Estela M. Perlas-Bernabe, to implement the alternative roll signing procedure as contemplated herein.

July 7, 2020.


DIOSDADO M. PERALTA
 Chief Justice

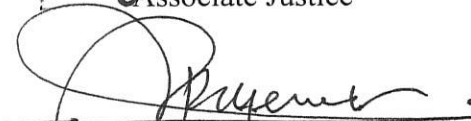

ESTELA M. PERLAS-BERNABE
 Senior Associate Justice


ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA
 Associate Justice


JOSE C. REYES, JR.
 Associate Justice

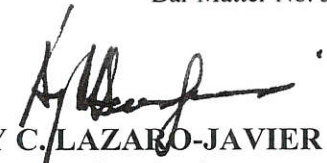

MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN
 Associate Justice


ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO
 Associate Justice


RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO
 Associate Justice



ROSMARIE D. CARANDANG
Associate Justice




AMY C. LAZARO-JAVIER
Associate Justice



HENRI JEAN PAUL B. INTING
Associate Justice




RODIL V. ZALAMEDA
Associate Justice



MARION V. LOPEZ
Associate Justice



EDGARDO L. DELOS SANTOS
Associate Justice



SAMUEL H. GAERLAN
Associate Justice