

LEGAL ETHICS

U P LAW CENTER

LEGAL ETHICS

by

RUBEN E. AGPALO
A.B., B.S.J., LL.B. (U.P.)
Assistant Solicitor General

Revised Edition

U.P. Law Center
Quezon City, Philippines

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by

RUBEN E. AGPALO

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For information, write the Director, U.P. Law Center, Bocobo Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

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To

Ruby, Rosalie, Ruben, Jr.,
Rhodora and Rogelio

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION

The U.P. Law Center takes pride in publishing this book of Prof. Ruben Agpalo which is the third treatise to be completed by the Philippine Jurisprudence Project. It comes out at a time when the IBP has created a Committee to draft a Code of Professional Responsibility to revise the present one which is patterned after the American model.

This comprehensive treatise could very well serve as a bible to the members of the legal profession, providing them moral guidance and inspiration in their difficult mission of advancing the cause of law and justice.

Lawyers and law students will certainly find his work very helpful in defining the standards of professional conduct that members of the Bar must observe in their relationship and dealings with the courts, their clients, their colleagues in the profession, and the public in general. It also devotes one chapter to a discussion of proper judicial deportment which makes this work equally valuable to members of the Bench.

FLERIDA RUTH P. ROMERO
Director
U.P. Law Center

June 5, 1980
Quezon City, Philippines

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

On October 1, 1975 the Law Center of the University of the Philippines launched the Philippine jurisprudence project. Its purpose is to produce a comprehensive and exhaustive exposition of Philippine laws in an integrated manner and characterized by originality in treatment, comprehensiveness in scope and uniformity in style. To achieve such purpose, the Philippine Jurisprudence Steering Committee, which supervises the project, has invited a number of prominent professors and practitioners of law to participate in the research undertaking. Their combined works will later be synthesized into an encyclopedia of Philippine law and jurisprudence, consisting of several volumes, as the end-product of the project.

I am honored to have been invited to join the project as a member of its steering committee and as contributing author. This book on Legal Ethics is a by-product of my contribution to the project. It is a presentation, in a methodical manner, of the laws, rules and principles governing the legal profession, with a chapter on judicial deportment. It is hoped that this book will partly meet the need for more literature on the subject.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance extended to me by the following persons in the preparation of this book: Dean Froilan Bacungan, then Director of the U.P. Law Center, for inviting me to join the project; Prof. Juan Rivera, Prof. Myrna Feliciano and Justice Jorge Coquia, members of the panel of readers, for their valuable suggestions; Atty. Cynthia Peñalosa for her research work; Atty. Ma. Aurora Cortes-Jorge and Commissioner Jaime Opinion for going over the manuscript; Mrs. Milagros Gallardo, project secretary, for attending to the details

of publication; and Atty. Gonzalo W. Gonzalez, with whom I had been associated for more than sixteen years as his assistant and later as his partner in the practice of law, for his encouragement and guidance.

RUBEN E. AGPALO

Quezon City, Philippines
June 12, 1980

PREFACE

The first edition of this book came out in September, 1980. It received favorable response from law students and members of the bar, as a result of which its available copies had been exhausted. To meet continuing requests for copies of the book, the U.P. Law Center is publishing this revised edition.

This second, like the first, edition aims to make available a "manual of equipment without which" a lawyer "cannot do his part to keep the law on the level of a profession" and to underscore the need for continuous inculcation of ethical values in the practice of law, which should "begin with the student and end with the judge, for student, lawyer and judge alike must have a thorough meaning and purpose of standards of professional conduct." The author hopes that the present work will receive the same encouraging response as that given to the first edition. It may well be said, then, that the aims envisioned by the author will have been partly achieved, as the best reward for his efforts.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to Director Flerida Ruth P. Romero of the U.P. Law Center for making possible the publication of this book.

RUBEN E. AGPALO

Quezon City, Philippines
December, 1982

LEGAL ETHICS

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