



## President's Report



On September 25, 2013 Atty. Beda G. Fajardo took his oath before Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno as the 47th President of the Philippine Bar Association, the oldest and most prestigious voluntary association of lawyers in the country according to a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.



*Supreme Court Chief Justice Sereno administering the oath of office to Pres. Fajardo, officers and members of the Board of Trustees*

In his inaugural address he announced that the thrusts of his administration were (1) the preservation and enhancement of the Rule of Law; (2) defend and preserve the independence of the judiciary to be composed of judges of competence and probity; and (3) promote a competent and ethical bar.



*Pres. Fajardo delivering his inaugural address*



*Pres. Fajardo inducting new members into the PBA*

On September 25, 2013 Chief Justice Sereno was invited as Guest of Honor and Speaker at the Law Day Celebration and Induction Ceremonies where she vowed to clean the judiciary of incompetent and corrupt judges and asked the association to extend a helping hand in identifying them. In support of her call President Fajardo created a committee to study the proposal composed of former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo as Chair and Past Presidents Ruben Fruto, Llewellyn L. Llanillo and Hector Martinez as members.



*Chief Justice Sereno addressing the PBA members and guests*



*Chief Justice Sereno and PBA Pres. Fajardo in a huddle*



*The Chief Justice receiving flowers and Plaque of Appreciation from Pres. Fajardo*



*Chief Justice Sereno and PBA officers and Board of Trustees*



On November 30, 2013 the Board of Trustees passed a Resolution endorsing the Resolution of the Philippine Association of Law Schools to reduce the coverage of the BAR examinations to just the Core Subjects namely: (1) Constitutional Law; (2) Civil Law; (3) Criminal Law; and (4) Remedial Law. The President supports the Bar reform in order to encourage more specialization - thereby improving the competence of Filipino lawyers locally and against foreign lawyers.

On November 13, 2013 former Solicitor General and Secretary of Justice Estelito P. Mendoza, one of the most prominent law practitioners in the country today, was invited as Guest of Honor and Speaker at the association's initial luncheon fellowship at the Manila Golf and Country Club, Forbes Park, Makati City. He spoke on the topic: "How can we lawyers alleviate the problems still besetting the administration of justice as administered by the courts to strengthen the Rule of Law". The PBA has consistently espoused and worked for better administration of Justice and Rule of Law. Thus, it has asked the Supreme Court to implement the Laurel Laws (RA Nos. 6033, 6034, 6035 and 6036) intended to benefit poor litigants in all the lower courts in the country.



*Former Sec. of Justice and Sol. Gen. Estelito Mendoza addressing the PBA members and guests*



*Former Sec. Mendoza receiving the Plaque of Appreciation from Pres. Fajardo*



*Former Sec. Mendoza with the PBA officers, Trustees and some of his former students at U.P.*

On November 26, 2013 Pres. Fajardo attended and participated in the launching of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship at the Asian Institute of Management upon the invitation of the mining industry. He is in favor of responsible mining with adequate protection to environment.



*(Pres. Fajardo attending the conference sponsored by the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship at the Asian Institute of Management upon the invitation of the mining industry)*



## President's Report

On December 20, 2013 Pres. Fajardo attended the BIR hearing on its IRR on posting of schedule of fees by law firms and other professions in their offices. He opposed the IRR as unconstitutional. Under the 1987 Constitution, the authority to regulate rules concerning pleading, practice, and procedure is the exclusive domain of the Supreme Court.



*Pres. Fajardo strongly opposing the BIR IRR requiring law firms and other professions to post in their offices their schedule of fees at the hearing called by the BIR at their main office in Diliman, Quezon City*

On January 29, 2014 at the association's luncheon fellowship at the Manila Golf Club, His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, who was invited as Guest of Honor and Speaker, spoke on the topic: "Religion and Law: a Strong Affinity" and discussed the spiritual, moral and ethical origins of law. The President has always advocated that the bar must not only be competent but must also be ethical.



*Cardinal Luis Tagle addressing the PBA members and guests at the well-attended fellowship luncheon*

*Cardinal Tagle with the PBA officers, trustees and advisers*



*Cardinal Tagle receiving the Plaque of Appreciation from Pres. Fajardo*

On February 18, 2014 President Fajardo discussed the position of the association at the hearing conducted by the Lower House's Committee on Constitutional Amendments that it is in favor of amendment by Constituent Assembly of only the economic provisions of the Constitution.



*(Pres. Fajardo discussing PBA's position on the holding of constitutional amendments by Constituent Assembly at the public hearing of the Lower House's Committee on Constitutional Amendments at the Batasan)*

On February 19, 2014 the association held its third fellowship luncheon at the Manila Golf and Country Club with Chair Miriam Coronel- Ferrer of the Philippine Panel in the Philippine Government - MILF Peace Negotiation as Guest of Honor and Speaker who discussed the topic: "Salient Provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Philippine Government and the MILF and how do they differ from the provisions of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the Philippine Government and the MNLF". The PBA is in favor of the peace agreement because it will implement the Constitutional provision which recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.



*Chair Miriam C. Ferrer addressing the PBA members and guests*



*Chair Ferrer with the PBA officers, trustees, advisers and members of the Phil. negotiating panel*



*Chair Ferrer receiving the Plaque of Appreciation from Pres. Fajardo*

On March 26, 2014 former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban was Guest of Honor and Speaker at the fourth luncheon fellowship of the association at the Tower Club, Makati City. He spoke on the topic: "Safeguarding Liberty, Conquering Poverty, Sharing Prosperity". He enjoined the bar to be competent and ethical which is one of Pres. Fajardo's core advocacies.



# President's Report



Former Chief Justice Panganiban addressing the PBA members and guests



Former Chief Justice Panganiban receiving the Plaque of Appreciation from Pres. Fajardo



Former Chief Justice Panganiban with the officers, trustees and members of the association

On June 13, 2014 PBA attended the meeting organized by the Archdiocese of Manila at the Quiapo Church to oppose the Manila Bay Reclamation Project. The association opposes the project because it violates the constitutional provision which requires the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

On June 26, 2014 the association commemorated its 123rd Foundation Day with Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III, as Guest of Honor and Speaker at the Manila Polo Club Makati City. The President asked the legal profession to uphold the spirit and letter of laws towards serving their fellowmen. He extolled PBA's long and continuous commitment to safeguard and uphold the Rule of Law chronicled in various national historical events.



Pres. Aquino addressing the PBA members and guests



PBA Pres. Fajardo exchanging views with Pres. Aquino



PBA Pres. Fajardo welcoming Pres. Aquino upon his arrival at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City



At the commemoration of its milestone, the PBA presented its framed Resolution of Support to the President embodying its unequivocal support to the President's campaign to eliminate graft and corruption in government. The PBA supports Pres. Aquino's anti-graft and corruption campaign because the constitution enjoins the state to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.



*Pres. Aquino receiving PBA's Resolution of Support from the association's Pres. Fajardo*



*Pres. Aquino with Sec. Leila De Lima, former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and former Sec. Vicente Carlos and association's officers and trustees*

On July 14, 2014 PBA was invited to attend Pres. Aquino's address to the nation on the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP). Pres. Fajardo was given a front row seat as an acknowledgment of the association's unequivocal support for the administration's campaign to eliminate graft and corruption in government. On the DAP issue, PBA appeals for national sobriety, respect for the Supreme Court's decision, affording the authors, proponents and implementers of the DAP due process, and no call for resignation and impeachment for being premature and only muddles the issues.



*Pres. Aquino addressing the nation on DAP*



*Pres. Aquino shaking the hand of PBA Pres. Fajardo acknowledging his presence*



## President's Report

In all its luncheon fellowships, the PBA always invited the ambassadors of foreign governments to bear witness to the association's involvement in national issues along the lines of its advocacies.



*Members of the diplomatic corps who were in attendance at various luncheon fellowships of the association*

The difficult tasks of the office were made lighter by the support and inspiration given by the President's loved ones-his family.



*(Pres. Aquino with PBA's Pres. Fajardo's family: sons Christian Joseph Marie (Lawyer), Juan Paolo (Lawyer), Pres. Aquino, PBA Pres. Fajardo, wife Rafaelita (Lawyer) and daughter Rafaela Margarita (Doctor)*



The President had special projects for specific purposes.

On December 11, 2013 the Board of Trustees and Advisers had a simple lunch for Christmas at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City in order to save the amount (P52,500.00) for the Christmas Party and contributed it to the Yolanda typhoon victims.

On June 13, 2014 the association held its 9th Golf Cup at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong City to raise funds for its operation and projects. Supreme Court Justices Presbitero Velasco, Bienvenido Reyes, Estela Perlas-Bernabe and CA Presiding Justice Andy Reyes graced the affair. The Golf Tournament was able to raise P600,000.00.



*Pres. Fajardo with Supreme Court Justices Presbitero Velasco, Bienvenido Reyes, Stella Bernabe, CA Presiding Justice Andy Reyes, Co-chairmen Alfonso Victorio G. Reyno III and Rico V. Domingo of Golf Cup Committee, Trustee Benjamin Bacorro, Atty. Ricardo Bernabe, Jr. and guests from sponsoring companies*

The President wishes to express his profound thanks to the Officers, Board of Trustees, Advisers, members and the Secretariat for their exemplary cooperation.

God Bless the Philippine Bar Association and our country.