



PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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President's Report

Philippine Bar Association

Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am honored to present this report on the activities and accomplishments of the Philippine Bar Association for the year 2025. This period has been marked by exceptional activity and significant events of national and international interest, reaffirming the PBA's enduring role as a staunch advocate for the rule of law and a pillar of professional excellence.

Key Accomplishments and Activities

1. Induction Ceremony

The year commenced with a distinguished induction ceremony, with Past President Arturo del Rosario Jr. serving as Inducting Officer and Guest of Honor. This occasion highlighted the PBA's long-standing tradition, which spans generations, and reaffirmed our commitment to continuity and leadership within the legal profession.

2. Foundation Day & Law Day Celebration

The PBA celebrated its 133rd Foundation Day and Law Day on 24 September 2025 at the Manila Golf & Country Club. The event was graced by the keynote address of Hon. Vicente V. Mendoza, retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, who eloquently underscored the indispensable role of law in society and called for vigilance against corruption. Justice Mendoza invoked the maxim "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" ("Who will guard the guards?"), emphasizing the need for principled leadership and early education in law and civic responsibility.

3. Sidebar Sessions

The inaugural Sidebar Sessions were held on 17 October 2025 at the Penthouse of the DelRosarioLaw Centre, Bonifacio Global City. This event fostered mentorship and dialogue between veteran and young lawyers in a casual environment.

4. Collaborations and Public Engagements

- **Philippine Supreme Court & Federal Court of Australia:** The PBA actively participated in the Philippine Judiciary Knowledge Exchange on admiralty rules, held at the Judicial Academy Philippines, Tagaytay City, on 25 September 2025.
- **Congressional Hearings:** The PBA participated as a resource person in the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments' public consultations on proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution last 3 December 2025, ensuring the Association's voice was heard in critical legislative deliberations.

- **Rappler Event:** Last 14 November 2025, the PBA supported and participated in the forum “Reflections on the Rule of Law in Times of Transition and Democratic Decline,” featuring Amal Clooney and other distinguished speakers, in partnership with Rappler and UP Law BGC.

5. International Outreach

- **Saitama Bar Association (Japan):** Initiated dialogue for collaboration on cross-border legal support and seminars, aiming to broaden networks and support cross-border transactions between Philippine and Japanese companies.
- **International Criminal Bar (ICB):** The PBA received an invitation to the ICB Congress held in Thailand last 14 November 2025, reflecting growing international recognition, though attendance was not possible due to scheduling conflicts.

6. Institutional Reforms

This year, the Board of Trustees and the Members approved long awaited and discussed amendments to the PBA Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. These changes were focused on resolving long standing concerns on membership including enhancing the ability of PBA to adapt to ever changing developments.

7. Elections and Governance

The annual meeting and election of trustees for 2026 were scheduled for 12 December 2025, with nominations and proxy forms distributed to members. I am pleased to report that the 2/3rds threshold was successfully met.

8. Advocacy and Statements

Throughout the year, the PBA issued statements emphasizing the continued fight for the rule of law, reinforced by Justice Mendoza’s Law Day speech and active engagement in national legal issues. Likewise, the officers and committee heads have been interviewed by various media organizations resulting to increased public awareness of the organization and its ideals.

9. Successful Fundraising Initiative

The PBA Golf Tournament was successfully conducted, achieving its target of ₱1,000,000 in net proceeds. This accomplishment reflects the strong support of our members and partners and will contribute meaningfully to the Association’s programs and advocacies.

10. Challenges Encountered

Despite these achievements, external factors posed challenges. Severe weather conditions led to the cancellation of the scheduled Impeachment forum, reminding us of the need for adaptability in our programming.

11. Wellness

Lastly, the wellness of lawyers is important. PBA hosted a Padel Introduction event on 26 April 2025 participated by the young lawyers from various law firms.

Conclusion

The accomplishments of this year are a testament to the dedication and collective effort of our officers, trustees, and members. With your continued support, we are confident that the PBA will remain a leading voice for justice, integrity, and service in the legal profession.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Manolo Del Rosario Rebano
President 2025
Philippine Bar Association