



Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter



**Legal Excellence,
Community Focus:**
*The IBP Quezon City Chapter
2023-2024 Story*

Integrated Bar of the Philippines



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Accomplishment Report presents an overview of the most significant activities and projects carried out by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter under the term of the current Board of Officers, from the period starting April 2023 until December 2024. This was prepared by the IBP QC Chapter officers with the help of the office's Legal Aid Clerks, and submitted to the Awards Committee for the consideration of the IBP Quezon City Chapter and its activities for the IBP Awards, to be presented during the 20th National Convention of Lawyers scheduled for January 30 to February 1, 2025 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City.

**Introduction to the
Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Quezon City Chapter**

IBP QC CHAPTER

As the largest and most dynamic chapter in the country, with an estimated **13,000** registered members as of **December 2024** and entitled to field 11 representatives to the IBP House of Delegates, IBP Quezon City continues to be a premier chapter that upholds only the highest standards of the legal profession and to be a vital presence within the legal community. The IBP QC Chapter office, which hosts both the chapter's administrative functions and its Legal Aid Center dedicated to providing free legal consultations to those in need, is located at the 4th floor of the Old Hall of Justice, Quezon City Hall Complex, Diliman, Quezon City.

Established on October 12, 1939, Quezon City is named after Manuel L. Quezon, the second president of the Philippines and the guiding vision behind the city's creation. It is the largest and most populous of the 17 cities and municipalities comprising Metro Manila , covering a total land area of 16,112.58 hectares (based on the 1995 GIS graphical plot) and boasts an estimated 3,278,247 residents as of 2024 (**World Population Review, 2024**). Considered as a Highly Urbanized City, it is situated on the northeast portion of Metro Manila and serves as the main gateway linking the National Capital Region (NCR) to surrounding provinces via all Northern Luzon and Southern Luzon expressways (**Quezon City Government, n.d.**). It is politically subdivided

into 6 congressional districts, each of them represented by a congressman in the House of Representatives, and 144 barangays under the local city government. As a former capital city of the Philippines from 1949 to 1976, it is home to several national government agencies and institutions, most notably the House of Representatives complex in Batasan Hills, the seat of the Lower House of the Philippine Congress. In addition, Quezon City is also a prominent center for higher education, hosting several of the Philippines' top universities and colleges, including the University of the Philippines in Diliman and the Ateneo de Manila University in Katipunan Avenue. Finally, Quezon City is known as the "Entertainment Capital of the Philippines" and nicknamed "City of Stars," for being the home of the country's major broadcasting networks and entertainment studios.

Due to its booming population and status as a major hub for industry, commerce, education, media and the arts, Quezon City was chosen as the pilot site for the Justice Zone in 2014, a project of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) that aims to accelerate the resolution of court cases, strengthen coordination among key agencies and stakeholders within the criminal justice system, and to break down barriers that affect the delivery of justice to Filipinos.

Citations:

Quezon City, Philippines Population 2024. (2024-12-02). World Population Review. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/cities/philippines/quezon-city>

Quezon City Government (n.d.) About Quezon City > Economy. Retrieved December 26, 2024 <https://quezoncity.gov.ph/about-the-city-government/economy/>



*Dear Esteemed Members and Fellow Lawyers,
Greetings!*

It is with immense honor and pride that we share with you the strides we've taken, and significant milestones achieved in the pursuit of justice, professional excellence, and community service. As we unfold the pages of this Accomplishment Report, we invite you into a reflective journey of our term, the years 2023-2025, under the theme of providing access to justice for all.

The past 2 years have been a testament to the resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment of our members to uphold the principles of the legal profession. Amidst the evolving landscapes of law and society, our chapter has remained steadfast in its mission to advocate for the rule of law, provide access to justice and indispensable service to the community, and foster camaraderie among our members.

This Accomplishment Report serves not only as a record of our achievements but as a beacon of inspiration for what we and our members, as a collective body, can achieve. Each page is a narrative of hard work, innovation, dedication and collaboration that has propelled us toward our goals and aspirations. From starting the term with strategizing what can be done for our members, engaging in meaningful legal aid and outreach programs, digitalizing the legal profession, providing continuous professional development opportunities, to actively participating in the discourse on crucial legal and societal issues, we believe that our chapter has truly made a significant impact.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every member, partner, and stakeholder who has journeyed with us these past 2 years. Your invaluable support and contributions have been the cornerstone of our success. The dedication of our members is immeasurable. As we look ahead, let us carry forward the momentum with renewed zeal and dedication to further our chapter's legacy and contribute profoundly to our legal system and society at large.

In closing, we hope that this report not only informs but also inspires. May it be a testament to the strength of our collective endeavor and a clarion call to continued excellence and service. Together, let us forge ahead with more activities and projects, aiming higher, reaching further, and making even more meaningful differences in the lives we touch and the communities we serve.

Warmest regards,

Atty. Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda
President
IBP Quezon City Chapter

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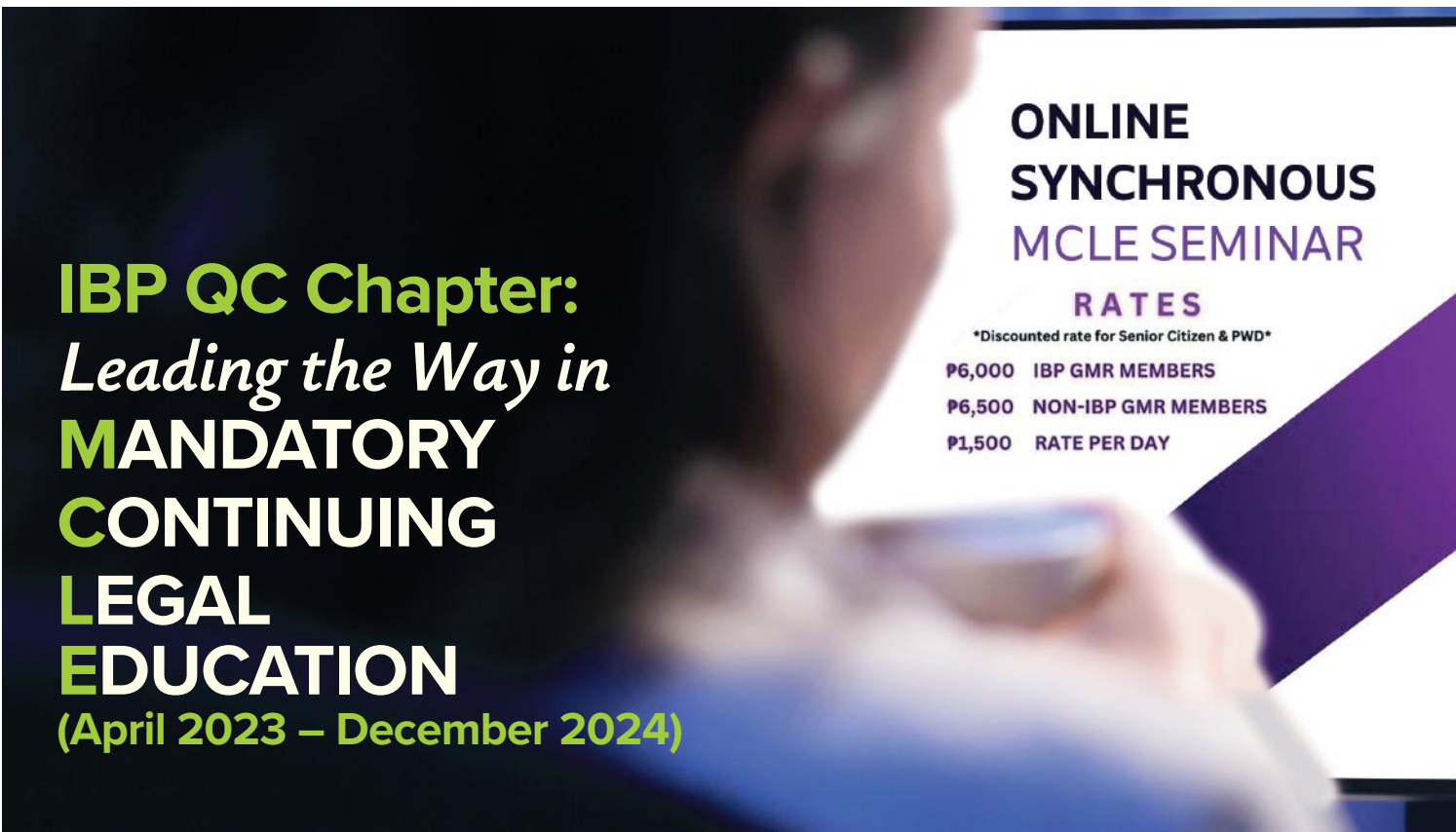
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IBP QC Chapter: *Leading the Way in* **MANDATORY** **CONTINUING** **LEGAL** **EDUCATION** **(April 2023 – December 2024)**

ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS MCLE SEMINAR

RATES

Discounted rate for Senior Citizen & PWD

P6,000 IBP GMR MEMBERS

P6,500 NON-IBP GMR MEMBERS

P1,500 RATE PER DAY

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has cemented its reputation as a premier provider of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) accredited seminars and activities. Taking its role seriously in aiding legal professionals to meet the Supreme Court's MCLE requirements, the IBP QC Chapter ensures that lawyers remain informed about the latest legal developments, jurisprudence, and best practices in the profession.

From April 2023 to December 2024, IBP QC Chapter successfully conducted 17 MCLE activities, balancing innovation and accessibility to deliver quality learning experiences. Of these, 13 were synchronous online seminars held via Zoom, allowing for greater reach and flexibility for participants. Additionally, four face-to-face MCLE sessions were organized, showcasing the chapter's adaptability in offering diverse learning formats. Two of these sessions were held within the Quezon City Hall, while the other two were special in-house MCLE sessions exclusively conducted for the legal professionals working at the House of Representatives.

The MCLE seminars with the highest attendance for 2023 and 2024 were both synchronous online sessions. **The session held on November 24, 25, and December 1 and 2, 2023, recorded an impressive 192 participants. Similarly, the session conducted on August 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2024, drew 125 attendees.** These figures highlight the chapter's success in attracting a substantial number of participants by delivering high quality and timely MCLE programs.

IBP QC Chapter's commitment to excellence is evident not only in the breadth of its activities but also in the caliber of resource speakers and topics presented. By combining legal expertise with cutting edge platforms, the chapter continues to serve as a reliable partner for lawyers seeking to fulfill their continuing education requirements efficiently and effectively.

With a total of 1,614 lawyers served over 17 seminars, the IBP QC Chapter reaffirms its role as a trusted partner in advancing legal education. Looking forward, the chapter remains dedicated to providing top tier MCLE programs, empowering lawyers to excel in their practice and maintain the highest standards of professionalism in the legal field.



NO. DATES	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1 April 3, 4, 12 and 13, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar (GMR)	39
2 April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	71
3 June 23, 24, 30, and July 1, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	156
4 July 15, 22, 29 and August 5, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	62
5 August 19, 26, September 2 and 9, 2023	Face-to-Face MCLE Seminar	64
6 September 22, 23, 29, and 30, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	84
7 October 14, 21, 28, and November 4, 2023	Face-to-Face MCLE Seminar	33
8 November 24,25, December 1 and 2, 2023	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	192
9 March 15, 16, 22, and 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	109
10 April 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	84
11 May 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2024	Face-to-Face MCLE Seminar <i>at the House of Representatives</i>	100
12 August 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	125
13 September 6,7, 13, and 14, 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	87
14 September 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	93
15 October 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2024	Face-to-Face MCLE Seminar <i>at the House of Representatives</i>	73
16 November 21, 22, 29, and 30, 2024 <i>(in cooperation with IBP Makati)</i>	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	103
17 December 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2024	Synchronous Online MCLE Seminar	139

Summary:

Total Number of MCLE Activities

17

Total Number of Participants

1,614

EMPOWERING THE LEGAL PROFESSION:

IBP Quezon City's Webinars for 2023-2024

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has consistently demonstrated its commitment to advancing the legal profession

through a robust webinar series for 2023-2024. These webinars catered to a broad spectrum of legal professionals, from budding lawyers to seasoned practitioners,

offering invaluable insights and skill-building opportunities. Here's a detailed overview of the initiatives, categorized into key themes:

Career Guidance for New Lawyers

IBP QC Chapter recognized the challenges faced by new lawyers in charting their professional paths and developed tailored webinars to address these needs.

Gabay Mo Ako Project 1 and 2

provided essential guidance for fresh bar passers, covering the intricacies of starting a legal career and empowering them by offering valuable insights into a wide range of legal specialties.

Australian Student Visa

offered insights into pursuing legal opportunities abroad, discussing application processes, and requirements for studying law in Australia.

Getting an LLM Abroad

explored the advantages and logistics of obtaining a Master of Laws degree in international universities, equipping attendees with strategies for academic and professional growth on a global scale.

Demystifying Legal Processes: The IBP QC Chapter Batas at Lunas Webinar Series Parts 1 and 2

Demonstrating IBP QC Chapter's firm commitment to educating the public about the law and fostering an informed society

Batas at Lunas: Preliminary Investigation and Inquest

delves into criminal law procedures, illuminated the nuances of filing a complaint, the role of prosecutors, and the rights of respondents.

Batas at Lunas: Mga Mali sa Birth Certificate

focused on legal remedies for correcting errors in birth certificates, marriage certificates, and other official documents issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Negotiation Skills That Can Seal Your Deal: An Online Masterclass

equipped participants with essential strategies for effective negotiation, a crucial skill in both litigation and corporate practice.

Safe Spaces Act: Bawal Bastos Law

unpacked the provisions of the Safe Spaces Act, empowering lawyers to advocate for gender-sensitive and anti-harassment policies.

Let's Get Ethical: Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability

offered an in-depth discussion of ethical guidelines, emphasizing integrity and accountability in legal practice.

Stress Management and Improving Resilience Webinar

provided actionable tips for mental wellness, helping lawyers maintain a healthy work-life balance amid the demands of their profession.

Financial Literacy

Understanding financial principles is increasingly vital for lawyers managing personal finances or advising clients. IBP QC Chapter hosted three innovative webinars to enhance financial literacy:

Know Your Credit

educated attendees on the fundamentals of credit management, including credit scores, loan applications, and debt resolution strategies.

Digital Assets and the Future

explored the evolving landscape of cryptocurrencies, blockchain, and their implications for legal practice.

Stocks, Bonds, and Crypto

provided a comprehensive overview of investment opportunities, highlighting risks and legal considerations in these financial instruments.

Training and Development for Legal Aid Lawyers

Committed to improving access to justice, IBP QC Chapter designed specialized training for legal aid practitioners:

Rules on the Unified Legal Aid Services Webinar

offered an in-depth analysis of the Unified Legal Aid Service (ULAS) Rules recently approved by the Supreme Court, which will require lawyers to render 60 hours of *pro bono* legal aid every three years starting February 3, 2025. During this webinar, IBP National Center for Legal Aid Director Atty. Marcelino Michael I. Atanante IV highlighted how the new ULAS framework fosters a culture of *pro bono* service while ensuring equitable distribution of legal aid responsibilities among lawyers, as well as the role of IBP chapters in facilitating its implementation.

Conclusion

Through these webinars, IBP QC Chapter has empowered lawyers to excel in their careers, remain ethically grounded, and adapt to emerging trends. The chapter's initiatives underscore its dedication to fostering a vibrant legal community that is competent, compassionate, and forward-looking. As IBP QC Chapter continues to innovate and lead, its members are better equipped to serve the public and uphold the rule of law.



CHARTING CAREER PATHS:

**IBP QC Chapter's Gabay *mo ako* Projects
Guides *New Lawyers* Towards Success**

In 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter **(IBP QC Chapter) was proud to organize the Gabay Mo Ako Project, a series of Zoom webinars aimed at guiding new lawyers in exploring and navigating their legal careers. Held in two parts, on May 12 and June 25,** these sessions served as an essential platform for young legal professionals to gain insights from seasoned experts in various fields of law. The project focused on helping participants make informed decisions by exploring different legal career paths based on their passions and interests.

Part 1 of the Gabay Mo Ako Project featured an impressive lineup of speakers who shared their expertise across various legal fields. Atty. Cherrie Belmonte-Lim, an expert in Real Estate Law, provided invaluable guidance on navigating this dynamic sector, which is integral to both personal and business transactions. Atty. Karen Gail Feble, specializing in Government Law, highlighted the roles new lawyers can take in shaping public policies and governance. Atty. Adonis Edgar Macam, a skilled Litigator, spoke on the challenges and rewards of courtroom practice, emphasizing advocacy and trial preparation. Atty. Jeffrey Constantino, known for his expertise in Arbitration, discussed alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and their growing importance in the legal landscape.

Other speakers in Part 1 included Atty. Greg Joseph Tiongco, who shared insights into Corporate Law, and Atty. Kristjan Vicente Gargantiel, who provided a deep dive into Labor Law. Atty. Anthony Purganan, an advocate for Legal Aid, discussed the rewarding path of providing *pro bono* services to underserved communities. Lastly, Atty. Pierre Martin Reyes, an expert in Taxation, explained the complexities of tax law and how new lawyers can develop a practice in this ever-evolving field.

In **Part 2** of the series, the IBP QC Chapter once again brought together a diverse group of speakers who offered their wisdom and experience in even more specialized areas of law. Atty. Joan de Venecia-Fabul discussed the intricacies of Corporation Law, offering career advice to those interested in advising businesses and handling corporate matters. Justice Emily San Gaspar-Gito of the Court of Appeals shared her journey in the Academe, emphasizing the significant role law professors play in shaping the next generation of lawyers. Atty. Maria Donnah Lerona-Camitan, an expert in Election Law, provided valuable insights into the complexities of electoral processes and the legal intricacies surrounding elections. Atty. Alberto Agra rounded out the session by delving into Sports Law, an emerging field in the Philippines that blends law and athletics.

The Gabay Mo Ako Project was a success in providing new lawyers with the tools to pursue careers that align with their passions and aspirations. It highlighted the wide range of legal fields available to young professionals and encouraged them to consider their options thoughtfully. Through this initiative, the IBP QC Chapter has once again demonstrated its commitment to fostering the development of future legal leaders and advocates.



In an effort to expand professional development opportunities for its members, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) hosted the **“Ask Pañera: A Guide to Pursuing an LLM Abroad”** webinar on August 19, 2023, via Zoom.

This informative session aimed to provide lawyers with valuable insights into the numerous advantages of obtaining a Master of Laws (LLM) degree from foreign universities and the practical steps required to pursue such an educational path.

EXPLORING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES:

The “Ask Pañera” Webinar on Pursuing an LLM Abroad

The webinar, led by esteemed experts and experienced legal professionals, highlighted the growing trend among Filipino lawyers seeking advanced legal education overseas. With globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of legal systems, an LLM degree offers significant benefits, including enhanced legal expertise, access to a broader network of professionals, and the opportunity to specialize in niche areas of law. It also opens doors to career advancement opportunities, both locally and internationally.

During the session, participants were guided through the various

requirements and processes involved in applying for an LLM program abroad. Experts discussed the importance of selecting the right university, the academic prerequisites, and the standardized tests, such as the TOEFL or IELTS, that may be required for admission. They also provided practical advice on securing scholarships, managing the financial aspect of studying abroad, and navigating visa and immigration regulations.

Moreover, the webinar underscored the unique opportunities that an LLM degree can bring to a lawyer’s career. By gaining a deeper understanding of

international law, comparative legal systems, and emerging legal fields, participants were encouraged to think beyond traditional legal practice. Whether in corporate law, human rights, environmental law, or dispute resolution, an LLM can broaden a lawyer’s expertise, making them more competitive in a globalized legal market.

Through this initiative, IBP QC Chapter provided its members with the tools and knowledge to take the next step in their legal careers, empowering them to pursue LLM programs abroad and capitalize on the global opportunities available in today’s legal landscape.

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES:



The Australian Student Visa Webinar for IBP QC Chapter Members *with Atty. Vladimir Alarique T. Cabigao*

On July 14, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter hosted an insightful and informative Zoom webinar aimed at helping lawyer members explore professional development opportunities abroad.

The session, which began at 5 PM, focused specifically on the requirements and processes involved in obtaining an Australian Student Visa. This webinar was part of IBP QC Chapter's ongoing efforts to provide its members with valuable resources and guidance for personal and career growth.

The resource speaker for the session was Atty. Vladimir Alarique T. Cabigao, a practicing solicitor in New South Wales, Australia.

Atty. Cabigao, who has firsthand experience with the intricacies of Australian immigration laws and visa procedures, brought his expertise to the forefront. He walked the participants through the various steps involved in applying for an Australian Student Visa, offering valuable insights into the documentation required, the different visa subclasses, and the application process itself.

The webinar proved to be an excellent platform for IBP QC Chapter members to gain crucial insights into how they can expand their professional horizons and further their legal education. It also facilitated an enriching discussion on the advantages of international

study, particularly in a country like Australia, which is known for its high quality education system and legal profession. Atty. Cabigao's expert guidance ensured that participants walked away with a comprehensive understanding of the visa application process, empowering them to make informed decisions about pursuing further education abroad.

Overall, the IBP QC Chapter's July 2023 webinar was a resounding success, with members gaining not only knowledge of the Australian Student Visa requirements but also a broader perspective on how such opportunities could advance their careers on the global stage.

DEMYSTIFYING LEGAL PROCESSES: THE IBP QC CHAPTER BATAS *at* LUNAS WEBINAR SERIES PARTS 1 *and* 2



Left to Right: Webinar Speakers

Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino
Atty. Yvonne G. Festejo
Atty. Adonis Macam

“Batas at Lunas” : Empowering Communities Through Legal Knowledge

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter successfully launched the “Batas at Lunas” webinar series in 2023, reaffirming its commitment to public legal education and accessible justice. Broadcast live on Facebook, the series bridges the gap between complex legal processes and the community, addressing common inquiries and empowering the public with essential legal knowledge.

The initiative recognizes the widespread need for understanding basic legal procedures, which often hinder access to justice for many Filipinos. By providing free, reliable, and digestible legal advice online, “Batas at Lunas” underscores IBP QC Chapter’s dedication to serving as a beacon of legal aid and education.

The inaugural episode, titled *“Preliminary Investigation and Inquest,”*

tackled the fundamental procedures surrounding criminal complaints. This session illuminated the nuances of filing a complaint, the role of prosecutors, and the rights of respondents. The speakers, Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, Atty. Yvonne G. Festejo, and Atty. Adonis Edgar A. Macam, provided valuable insights into the critical distinctions between preliminary investigation and inquest proceedings. They highlighted practical tips for navigating these

processes, particularly emphasizing the importance of understanding one’s rights and responsibilities when faced with a criminal case.

The second webinar, *“Mga Mali sa Birth Certificate at Iba Pang Dokumento, Paano Itatama?”*

shifted focus to civil law, addressing common issues encountered in vital records such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, and other official documents issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). By breaking down legal jargon and detailing the administrative and judicial remedies available, the webinar provided much needed clarity on an issue that affects many Filipinos.

Through the expertise of IBP QC Chapter’s lawyers—Atty. Constantino, Atty. Festejo, and Atty. Macam—the webinars proved to be highly engaging and informative. The interactive format allowed participants to ask questions in real time, ensuring that the content directly addressed the audience’s concerns. In addition, the series’ accessibility on Facebook Live extended its reach to a broader audience, making it a valuable resource for individuals seeking clarity on legal matters without the barriers of consultation fees or scheduling conflicts.

“Batas at Lunas” exemplifies IBP QC Chapter’s mission to promote legal literacy and foster a more informed and empowered citizenry. As the series continues, it serves as a reminder that justice and legal education should be inclusive and accessible to all.

MASTERING THE ART *of* NEGOTIATION:



IBP QC Chapter Hosts Online Masterclass *with Atty. Zenaida Ongkiko-Acorda*

To cap off its celebration of International Women's Month, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter organized a compelling online masterclass titled **"Negotiation Skills That Can Seal Your Deal."** Held on Wednesday afternoon, March 27, 2024, via Zoom, the event featured distinguished resource speaker Atty. Zenaida Ongkiko-Acorda, a seasoned Lawyer-Partner at Custodio Acorda Sicam De Castro & Panganiban Law Offices and a trustee of the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIARB).

The masterclass aimed to equip legal practitioners with advanced negotiation strategies to elevate their advocacy skills and professional acumen. By organizing this activity, IBP QC Chapter reinforced its commitment to empowering lawyers, especially women, to excel not only as advocates for their clients but also as champions of justice for marginalized sectors.

Atty. Ongkiko-Acorda brought to the table a wealth of expertise in arbitration, mediation,

and conflict resolution. Her dynamic presentation covered critical aspects of negotiation, from mastering persuasive communication techniques to navigating challenging power dynamics during negotiations. Participants gained valuable insights into building rapport, understanding the interests of all parties, and employing creative problem-solving approaches to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

By hosting this masterclass, IBP QC Chapter not only celebrated Women's Month but also underscored the vital role of women leaders like Atty. Ongkiko-Acorda in shaping the future of the legal profession. The chapter continues to champion programs that advance professional excellence while fostering inclusivity and access to justice for all.

As IBP QC Chapter wrapped up its Women's Month activities, the success of this event reflects its ongoing dedication to nurturing lawyers who are well-equipped to lead, advocate, and negotiate for a better future.

ADVANCING RESPECT *and* INCLUSIVITY:



Atty. Melody S. Favis on the Safe Spaces Act at San Beda University

On July 29, 2023, Atty. Melody S. Favis, Deputy Director for the Greater Manila Region at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines National Center for Legal Aid (IBP NCLA), delivered a compelling lecture on the “Safe Spaces Act: Bawal Bastos Law” via Zoom. The webinar, sponsored by San Beda University, was part of the institution’s efforts to advance respect and inclusivity by raising awareness about laws that promote equality, respect, and safety for all individuals in various settings.

Atty. Favis captivated the virtual audience with her in-depth discussion on Republic Act No. 11313, widely known as the Safe Spaces Act. She highlighted the law’s extensive provisions designed to eliminate gender-based harassment in public spaces, workplaces, schools, and online platforms. Her lecture underscored the importance of fostering environments where individuals—regardless of gender, age, or status—feel safe and respected. Additionally, she explored the legal remedies available to victims, emphasizing the

law’s progressive approach to holding perpetrators accountable.

As a staunch advocate for gender and development (GAD) issues, Atty. Favis has consistently championed women’s rights and gender equality. Her relentless efforts have earned her recognition as a transformative leader in the legal community. In her capacity as Deputy Director of IBP NCLA for the Greater Manila Region, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

Beyond her legal expertise, Atty. Favis is known for her dedication to community outreach, legal aid missions, and educational campaigns aimed at empowering individuals to stand against harassment and discrimination. Her unwavering commitment to respect, equality, and justice continues to inspire change and serve as a beacon of hope in the fight against gender-based harassment and discrimination in the Philippines.

LET’S GET ETHICAL:



A Deep Dive into the 2023 Code of Professional Responsibility & Accountability with Atty. Neil Jerome A. Rapatan

On October 21, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) organized a Zoom webinar titled *“Let’s Get Ethical: An Introduction to the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability” (CPRA)*. The virtual

event drew a wide audience of legal professionals eager to understand the nuances of the 2023 Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability, the latest framework outlining the ethical standards and obligations for members of the Philippine Bar.

The highlight of the session was the participation of Atty. Neil Jerome A. Rapatan, IBP Commissioner on Bar Discipline, as the esteemed resource speaker. Atty. Rapatan's depth of experience and expertise in ethical jurisprudence brought clarity to the revised provisions of the Code and underscored their relevance to modern legal practice. His discussion was particularly timely as the CPRA, promulgated earlier in 2023, introduced significant changes designed to address the evolving challenges faced by legal practitioners in the Philippines.

The webinar kicked off with an overview of the CPRA's structure and objectives, emphasizing the importance of accountability and integrity in the legal profession. Atty. Rapatan outlined key updates in the Code, including new rules addressing the use of

technology in legal practice, enhanced guidelines for client-lawyer relationships, and stricter provisions on conflicts of interest. He also delved into the updated responsibilities of lawyers toward the judiciary, clients, and society as a whole, highlighting how these adjustments reflect the changing dynamics of the legal landscape.

Through *"Let's Get Ethical,"* IBP QC Chapter continues its tradition of empowering its members with knowledge and guidance to navigate the complexities of legal practice while adhering to the principles enshrined in the CPRA. This initiative reinforces the chapter's commitment to excellence and ethical responsibility, ensuring its members remain at the forefront of legal development and integrity.

PROMOTING RESILIENCE:



IBP Quezon City's Stress Management Webinar for Legal Aid Volunteers by Atty. Rosalie J. Dela Cruz-Cada

On October 31, 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter successfully hosted an engaging and impactful stress management webinar titled *"Stressed Ka Ba? Tara, Usap Tayo!"* This initiative aimed to address the unique mental health challenges faced by legal aid volunteers and clerks who operate in high-pressure environments while assisting marginalized communities with their legal needs.

The webinar featured Atty. Rosalie J. Dela Cruz-Cada, Director of Student Discipline at Far Eastern University, as the resource speaker. Renowned for her expertise in law and her advocacy for mental health awareness, Atty. Dela Cruz-Cada provided a wealth of insights and practical tools to promote mental well-being and build resilience among attendees.

The session delved into the underlying causes of stress commonly experienced in the legal profession, particularly in legal aid work. Participants learned about the psychological toll of managing emotionally charged cases, the strain of tight deadlines, and the demands of maintaining professional excellence under challenging circumstances.

Atty. Dela Cruz-Cada highlighted the importance of fostering self-awareness as a foundational step in stress management. She introduced techniques such as mindfulness meditation, effective time management, and the importance of setting realistic goals to prevent burnout. Drawing on real-life examples, she also emphasized the value of creating a supportive network within the workplace to encourage open communication and collaborative problem-solving.

This initiative is part of IBP QC Chapter's broader commitment to the holistic well-being of its members and volunteers. By recognizing the critical need for mental health support in the legal profession, the chapter continues to champion efforts that empower its stakeholders to perform their duties with clarity, focus, and resilience.

"Stressed Ka Ba? Tara, Usap Tayo!" stands as a testament to IBP QC Chapter's dedication to nurturing not just the professional but also the personal growth of its legal community. This webinar marks a meaningful step forward in cultivating a culture of mental health awareness within the practice of law.

IMPROVEMENT *of* ACCESS *to* JUSTICE AND CONDITIONS *of* PDLs

BENCH *and* BAR DIALOGUE 2023: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT *for a more* EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEM

On September 27, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter hosted a significant event aimed at improving the country's justice system—the Bench and Bar Dialogue. Held at the President Manuel L. Quezon Ceremonial Hall, 15th floor of the High Rise Building in the Quezon City Hall Complex, the event served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders in the judicial sector.

The dialogue gathered a diverse group of participants, including IBP QC Chapter officers and members, as well as representatives from the Judiciary, the Public Attorneys Office (PAO), the Office of the City Prosecutor (OCP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), law school legal aid programs, and the Mayor's Office. Together, these institutions engaged in meaningful discussions on pressing issues affecting the legal system, including the persistent challenges of overcrowded court dockets and the decongestion of prisons.

One of the focal points of the dialogue was the current state of court dockets, which continue to be overburdened with a growing number of cases. The prolonged delay in case resolutions and the backlog in judicial processes have raised concerns



about the efficiency and fairness of the system. Judges, lawyers, and other legal stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their insights and explore practical solutions for addressing these delays, including the possible use of technology and more effective case management practices. A collaborative effort to streamline processes, reduce unnecessary delays, and improve the overall efficiency of court proceedings was central to the discussion.

Another critical issue tackled during the dialogue was the ongoing problem of overcrowded prisons. With the increasing number of individuals incarcerated, the capacity of the country's jails and detention facilities has been stretched beyond its limits. This issue not only places a significant strain on the judicial system but also raises concerns about the human rights and welfare of detainees. Representatives from the BJMP and other stakeholders discussed possible measures to alleviate congestion, such as expanding alternative sentencing programs, increasing the capacity of detention facilities, and promoting the use of non-custodial measures, particularly for minor offenses.

The Bench and Bar Dialogue 2023 highlighted the importance of collaboration between the various sectors involved in the justice system. By fostering open communication between the Bench, the Bar, and other key stakeholders, the event aimed to create a more cohesive approach to addressing the challenges within the judicial system. It also underscored the shared responsibility of all parties in ensuring that justice is served efficiently and equitably.

This collaborative initiative marks a significant step toward creating positive changes in the Philippine justice system. The insights and proposals generated from the dialogue will continue to serve as a valuable resource for ongoing efforts to reform and strengthen the judicial process. As the IBP QC Chapter and its partners continue their drive for a more efficient and equitable justice system, events like the Bench and Bar Dialogue will remain crucial in bridging gaps and advancing meaningful reforms.

IBP QUEZON CITY CHAPTER OFFERS *free* ONLINE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS *to* PERSONS DEPRIVED *of* LIBERTY *at* QUEZON CITY JAIL

On October 26, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) took a significant step in promoting access to justice for marginalized sectors by conducting a free online legal consultation session for 25 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) at the Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory. This event, held from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, was a powerful demonstration of the IBP QC Chapter's commitment to ensuring that even those in detention can access legal advice and assistance.

Twelve dedicated Legal Aid volunteer lawyers participated in the event, offering their expertise and guidance to the PDLs who had limited access to legal resources. Through this initiative, the IBP QC Chapter provided invaluable support, helping these individuals navigate the complexities of the legal system, whether it concerned their ongoing cases, their rights as detainees, or other pressing legal matters.

The online consultations were made possible through the collaborative efforts of IBP QC Chapter and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), which helped facilitate the smooth implementation of the event. The use of technology ensured that even those who were physically confined to the jail could engage with legal professionals and receive the assistance they needed.

This initiative is part of IBP QC Chapter's broader Legal Aid program, which has consistently aimed to assist indigent and marginalized individuals who often lack the means to secure legal representation. By providing *pro bono* services, IBP QC Chapter volunteers help level the playing field for PDLs, ensuring that they are not deprived of their right to a fair trial or access to legal counsel.

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: IBP QC CHAPTER HOLDS DATA PRIVACY SEMINAR *for* QUEZON CITY JAIL-FEMALE DORMITORY

On April 30, 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive legal education by organizing a Data Privacy Seminar for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) residing at the Quezon City Jail-Female Dormitory. The seminar aimed to provide PDLs with a deeper understanding of their rights under the Data Privacy Act of 2012, equipping them with essential knowledge to protect their personal information.

Atty. Leandro Angelo Y. Aguirre, Deputy Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission (NPC), led the discussion, delivering a comprehensive talk on the scope, purpose, and provisions of the Data Privacy Act. Through his engaging presentation, Deputy Commissioner Aguirre highlighted how the law safeguards individuals' personal information from unauthorized access, misuse, and breaches. He emphasized the importance of data privacy for all, including those in detention, and underscored its role in upholding dignity and human rights.

The seminar's relevance was particularly significant for PDLs, who often face vulnerabilities that expose them to privacy violations. By understanding the protections offered under the Data Privacy Act, the participants were empowered to take proactive steps to safeguard their personal data even while in detention.



An open forum followed the lecture, where Deputy Commissioner Aguirre addressed thought provoking questions from both PDLs and personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). Topics ranged from practical tips for protecting sensitive information to clarifications on the Act's implications for incarcerated individuals. The interactive session provided valuable insights into how data privacy principles apply in the unique context of correctional facilities.

The initiative reflects IBP QC Chapter's dedication to making legal knowledge accessible to marginalized sectors of society. By collaborating with esteemed experts like Deputy Commissioner Aguirre, the chapter continues to advocate for the empowerment of vulnerable communities.

IBP QC Chapter's ongoing outreach efforts aim to bridge gaps in legal education, ensuring that every individual, regardless of circumstance, is aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law. This seminar stands as a testament to the transformative power of education in fostering resilience, self-advocacy, and justice for all.



COMPASSION IN ACTION: IBP QUEZON CITY SUPPORTS SENIOR PDLs *at* QC FEMALE DORMITORY

In a heartfelt demonstration of solidarity and service, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) turned over essential care items and mobility aids to senior Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at the Quezon City Female Dormitory of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) last November 2023. This initiative, aimed

at addressing the specific needs of this often-overlooked segment of society, reflects the chapter's ongoing commitment to providing tangible support to marginalized communities.

The turnover ceremony saw IBP QC Chapter handing over 21 thoughtfully prepared care packs containing toiletries and powdered milk, ensuring that the senior PDLs receive daily essentials to support their health and hygiene. Additionally, two wheelchairs were donated to enhance mobility for PDLs with physical challenges, recognizing their need for dignified and safe movement within the dormitory.

Key IBP QC Chapter officers and volunteers spearheaded the activity. Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, IBP QC Chapter Auditor and Legal Aid Committee Chair, led the initiative, exemplifying leadership through service. Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, IBP QC Chapter Director and Legal Aid Clinic Head, emphasized the importance of extending legal and humanitarian aid beyond courtroom advocacy. Atty.

Mary Natalie E. Caballero, an active IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Volunteer, joined the team, underscoring the collaborative spirit that drives IBP QC Chapter's community efforts.

The donation drive is part of IBP QC Chapter's broader mission to uphold justice and human dignity. Recognizing that senior PDLs face unique challenges due to their age and incarceration, the chapter has actively sought ways to provide them with a semblance of comfort and care. This turnover serves as a reminder that kindness and compassion can transcend barriers, even for those navigating the most difficult circumstances.

The IBP QC Chapter leadership expressed gratitude to its members and partners whose generous contributions made this endeavor possible. Such initiatives reinforce the organization's belief that true legal advocacy extends beyond the confines of litigation—it is about uplifting lives and ensuring that no one, even those behind bars, is left behind.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL BEHIND BARS: IBP- QUEZON CITY HOSTS LENTEN RECOLLECTION for PERSONS DEPRIVED of LIBERTY

On April 5, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) demonstrated its unwavering dedication to holistic legal advocacy and human dignity by hosting a meaningful Lenten Recollection at the Quezon City Jail-Female Dormitory. The event, designed to provide spiritual enrichment for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), was a moving reminder of the enduring power of faith, hope, and community, even in the most challenging circumstances.

This initiative reflects IBP QC Chapter's broader commitment to supporting marginalized communities and promoting the dignity of every individual. By organizing events like the Lenten Recollection, IBP QC Chapter extends its advocacy beyond legal aid, addressing the spiritual and emotional needs of PDLs. Such efforts recognize that justice encompasses more



than laws—it involves compassion, humanity, and the belief that every person is capable of growth and redemption.

The Lenten Recollection is a testament to IBP QC Chapter's mission to foster hope and renewal, even in the most challenging of environments. As the event concluded, the smiles, tears, and heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the PDLs stood as a powerful affirmation of the transformative potential of faith and community. This initiative is not just an act of service but a beacon of hope, reminding everyone of the possibility of redemption and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: IBP-QUEZON CITY CHAPTER'S COMPUTER DONATIONS *to the BUREAU of JAIL MANAGEMENT and PENOLOGY*



In line with its commitment to ensuring access to justice for all, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has made significant contributions to enhancing the legal processes for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in various detention facilities. These efforts were marked by two major computer donations aimed at supporting virtual hearings and legal consultations, which are crucial in promoting the rights of PDLs in the face of logistical challenges.

On November 23, 2023, the IBP QC Chapter donated computers to the Tacloban City Male Dormitory, a facility housing numerous PDLs. This initiative was designed to facilitate their participation in virtual hearings, which have become increasingly important in light of the ongoing pandemic and the growing need for more efficient, accessible legal proceedings. The installation of computer systems in the dormitory ensures that PDLs can attend their hearings remotely, avoiding the need for physical transport to courts, which is both costly and time consuming. This donation underscores IBP QC Chapter's support for the judicial system's adaptation to modern technology and the continued exercise of the PDLs' legal rights despite their confinement.

Following this, another notable donation took place on April 12, 2024, when IBP QC Chapter provided computers to the Quezon City Jail-Female Dormitory at Camp Tomas B. Karingal. This donation is particularly significant as it enables female PDLs to access virtual hearings and legal consultations with their legal counsel, facilitating a smoother and more efficient legal process. Like their male counterparts in Tacloban, female PDLs now have the opportunity to participate remotely in legal proceedings, ensuring their cases are heard and their rights upheld.

These computer donations reflect IBP QC Chapter's ongoing dedication to enhancing the legal empowerment of PDLs through the provision of modern technological solutions. By supporting virtual hearings and legal consultations, IBP QC Chapter continues to play a vital role in promoting justice, fairness, and human dignity within the Philippine criminal justice system.

JUSTICE *and* NEW BEGINNINGS: IBP QC CHAPTER SUPPORTS *Freedom Day* INITIATIVES



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) actively supported two impactful Freedom Day ceremonies hosted by the Quezon City Jail-Female Dormitory under the leadership of Warden JCINSP. Lourvina L. Abrazado on January 12, 2024, and September 25, 2024. These events underscored the collective commitment to justice, rehabilitation, and empowerment for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). On January 12, 2024, the Freedom Day ceremony celebrated the release of ten PDLs who had successfully completed their sentences. They were awarded

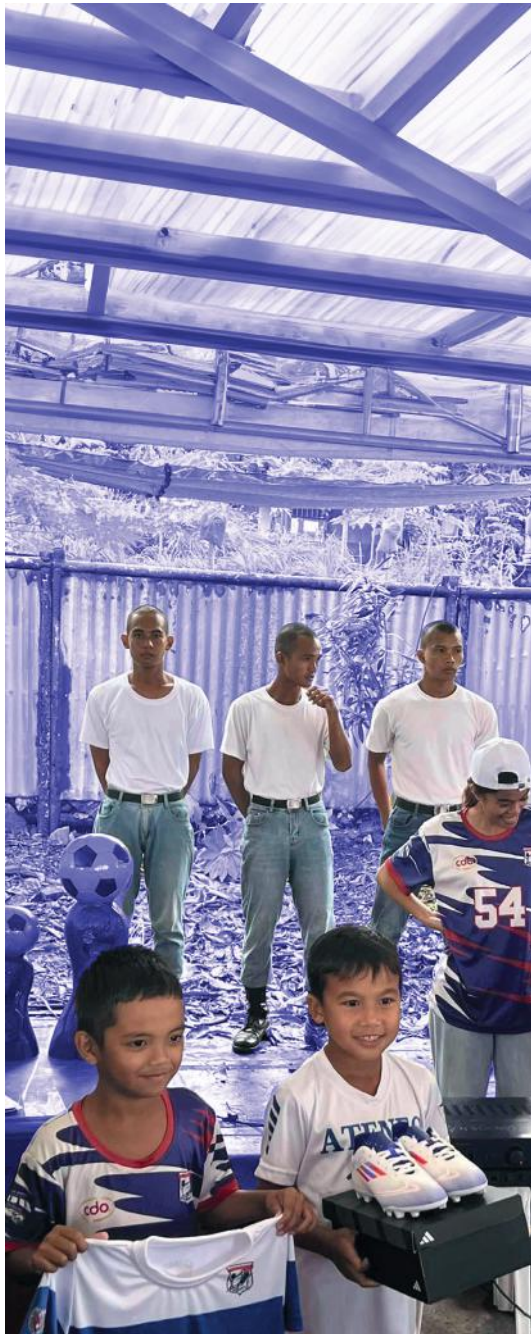
Certificates of Discharge and Livelihood Starter Kits, symbolizing a fresh start and providing essential tools for reintegration into society. IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Committee Chairperson Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging the newly released individuals to embrace their second chances and strive for meaningful lives post incarceration. His message was complemented by insights from Atty. Mario Dionisio of the Quezon City Public Attorney's Office and representatives from the QC Parole and Probation Office, fostering a sense of hope and community support.



Building on this dedication, IBP QC Chapter returned to the Quezon City Female Dormitory to take part in the Freedom Day ceremonies for 10 PDLs who have fully served their sentences on September 25, 2024, with a team of volunteer lawyers—Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, Atty. Girlie Y. Dimaculangan, Atty. Mary Natalie E. Caballero, Atty. Jose Bismark F. Zulueta, and Atty. Marc Eric W. Sing. Prior to the Freedom Day program, these lawyers provided free one-on-one legal consultations to 26 more PDLs, addressing their legal concerns and demonstrating IBP QC Chapter's steadfast commitment to access to justice. The subsequent ceremony highlighted the transformative potential of rehabilitation programs,

as the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) officers emphasized the importance of sustained community involvement in empowering individuals to rebuild their lives.

IBP QC Chapter's participation in these ceremonies reflects its unwavering dedication to supporting vulnerable sectors and fostering a justice system that champions rehabilitation and reintegration. By combining legal expertise, community collaboration, and heartfelt encouragement, IBP QC Chapter continues to play a vital role in shaping a society where every individual is afforded the opportunity to transform their lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



On October 26, 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) partnered with the IBP Makati Chapter to make a significant contribution to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

In a collaborative effort that underscored the power of community engagement and rehabilitation, the two chapters donated high quality Adidas football shoes and customized team uniforms to children participating in the under-7 kids' tournament held in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Bilibid Football Club. This heartfelt donation not only provided the young athletes with much needed sporting gear but also served as a symbol

FOSTERING HOPE THROUGH SPORTS: IBP QC CHAPTER *and* IBP MAKATI'S DONATION *to* the NEW BILIBID PRISON FOOTBALL CLUB

of the profound impact sports can have on individuals, particularly in environments where hope and opportunities are often scarce.

The New Bilibid Prison, a place known for its strict security measures and the rehabilitation of individuals convicted of various offenses, might not immediately seem like a setting for sporting events. However, the Bilibid Football Club has been a beacon of hope for many, showing that, even in the most challenging circumstances, sports can offer both a therapeutic outlet and a pathway for reintegration. The children involved in the football tournament, many of whom are connected to incarcerated parents or are from the local communities, found an opportunity to engage in healthy competition, teamwork, and discipline through the sport.

The generous donation of football gear by IBP QC Chapter and IBP Makati was a vital part of this celebration. The Adidas football shoes, known for their durability and performance, were carefully chosen to ensure that the young players could perform at their best, regardless of the conditions. The customized team uniforms further fostered a sense of camaraderie and team spirit among the participants, reinforcing the importance of unity and support in overcoming personal and societal challenges. The thoughtful gesture from IBP QC Chapter and IBP Makati provided not just tangible equipment but also a message of encouragement and care from the legal community.

This event highlighted the true essence of sports as a tool for rehabilitation. By promoting physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition, the Bilibid Football Club and its supporters are paving the way for better opportunities for children in the prison community. Beyond the football field, these efforts speak volumes about the power of positive reinforcement and the importance of supporting the reintegration process of former prisoners and their families.

STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES:

Memorandum of Agreement Signings with Partner Institutions



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) has achieved significant milestones in 2024 through strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing legal education, promoting justice, and providing exclusive healthcare benefits to its members. These partnerships, formalized through a series of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signings with esteemed institutions, underscore IBP QC Chapter's commitment to holistic development and service excellence.

On March 22, 2024, IBP QC Chapter forged another crucial alliance with the Quezon City Police District (QCPD). This partnership is focused on enhancing legal education and training for police officers, promoting respect for human rights, and improving the administration of justice. The collaboration seeks to ensure that law enforcement personnel are well-equipped to navigate complex legal frameworks while fostering trust and transparency between the community and the police. Joint initiatives, such as seminars and workshops, will serve as a platform for addressing pressing legal and societal issues.



The year concludes with the December 5, 2024, MOA signing with Makati Medical Center (MMC) to roll out exclusive healthcare benefits for IBP QC Chapter members. Recognizing the physical and mental demands of legal practice, this partnership provides lawyers with access to specialized health services at preferential rates. This initiative not only underscores IBP QC Chapter's dedication to the well-being of its members but also sets a precedent

for integrating wellness into the legal profession.

These MOA signings represent IBP QC Chapter's proactive approach to fostering partnerships that advance its mission of professional excellence, community service, and member welfare. By bridging gaps between education, law enforcement, and healthcare, IBP QC Chapter continues to uphold its commitment to holistic service for the betterment of its members and society.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



and **LEGAL
AWARENESS**

EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS JUSTICE:

Atty. Rofylyn L. Lagundino's Lecture on Katarungang Pambarangay Law



On February 17, 2024, **Atty. Rofylyn L. Lagundino**, currently the Clerk of Court for Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) Branch 80 of Muntinlupa City, delivered an insightful lecture on Katarungang Pambarangay Law at the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor of the Barangay Hall in Batasan Hills, Quezon City. The event drew enthusiastic participation from members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, reaffirming the vital role that barangay-level conflict resolution plays in fostering peace and order within local communities.

Organized in collaboration with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter), the seminar highlighted IBP QC Chapter's unwavering commitment to providing accessible legal education to barangay officials and promoting the efficient administration of justice. Atty. Lagundino's lecture

centered on the fundamentals of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, with particular emphasis on its objectives, the jurisdiction of barangay officials in resolving disputes, and the step-by-step procedures of mediation and conciliation under the law.

During the interactive session, Atty. Lagundino elaborated on the legal and practical implications of resolving disputes at the barangay level. She stressed that a well-functioning Lupong Tagapamayapa is critical to reducing the volume of cases that escalate to courts, thereby contributing to the declogging of dockets and ensuring quicker resolution for litigants. She further encouraged the participants to exercise impartiality and diligence in handling conflicts, emphasizing the importance of upholding fairness and fostering goodwill among community members.

The Lupong Tagapamayapa members of Barangay Batasan Hills actively engaged with Atty. Lagundino throughout the seminar, sharing real-life scenarios and seeking guidance on how to handle complex disputes. This level of participation underscored the community's recognition of their role as front-liners of justice and their eagerness to improve their skills in mediation and conciliation.

This seminar reflects IBP QC Chapter's broader vision of empowering grassroots leaders through capacity-building initiatives. By equipping barangay officials with a deeper understanding of legal principles and conflict resolution strategies, IBP QC Chapter aims to strengthen the rule of law at the local level, fostering harmonious and self-reliant communities.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PRIVACY AWARENESS:

IBP QC Chapter Holds Crucial Data Privacy Caravan *in 2023*



On June 20, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC Chapter), represented by its Chapter President, Atty. Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda and Public Relations Officer Atty. Rowell D. Ilagan, reaffirmed its commitment to community empowerment and legal education by hosting a Data Privacy Caravan for residents of Barangay San Martin de Porres. This initiative was designed to enhance public understanding of personal data protection and equip individuals with the knowledge to safeguard their information in an increasingly digital world.

The highlight of the event was a comprehensive session led by Atty. Leandro Angelo Y. Aguirre, Deputy Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission. Atty. Aguirre delved into the scope,

purpose, and provisions of the **Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10173)**, providing a clear and accessible explanation of the law's significance in protecting individual rights and regulating the collection, use, and storage of personal information.

The discussion emphasized the importance of privacy in the digital age, where cyber threats, data breaches, and identity theft are increasingly prevalent. Atty. Aguirre stressed that understanding data privacy is not just a legal necessity but a crucial step in ensuring personal security. He provided practical advice on recognizing potential threats, securing sensitive information, and understanding one's rights in cases of unauthorized access or misuse of data.

The session was well-received, with attendees expressing their appreciation for the valuable insights shared. Community members were particularly engaged during the open forum, where they had the opportunity to raise specific concerns about privacy issues they encountered in their daily lives. Atty. Aguirre addressed questions ranging from handling spam messages and online scams to protecting personal information when using social media and engaging in online transactions.

This caravan reflects IBP QC Chapter's proactive approach to legal advocacy and public service. By bringing experts and legal education directly to the community, IBP QC Chapter not only raises awareness about pressing issues like data privacy but also fosters trust and collaboration between legal professionals and the public.

As the world continues to navigate technological advancements, initiatives like the Data Privacy Caravan are vital. They empower individuals to make informed decisions, protect themselves against potential threats, and uphold their rights in a data-driven society. IBP QC Chapter's dedication to such outreach programs underscores its mission to promote legal literacy and build resilient, well-informed communities.

FOSTERING SAFER ROADS:

Highlights *from the* IBP QC Chapter and TASK Program's Road Safety Forums



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter, in collaboration with San Miguel Infrastructure Corporation's Tamang Asal sa Kalsada (TASK) Program, spearheaded two significant Road Safety Forums in 2023 and 2024 to promote a culture of safety on Philippine highways and tollways. These forums gathered key stakeholders, including government officials, transport operators, and proactive motorists, to discuss and implement best practices for highway safety.

The first forum was held on October 12, 2023, at WCC Aeronautical and Technological College in Pangasinan. This event convened bus operators and drivers traversing the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), alongside government officials and road safety advocates. Pangasinan Governor Ramon V. Guico III graced the event, underscoring the provincial government's commitment to reducing road incidents and fostering responsible driving habits. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on effective road safety measures, compliance with traffic regulations, and ensuring the welfare of both drivers and passengers.



The second forum took place on February 7, 2024, at the MATES Board Room in Calamba City, Laguna. This gathering brought together 74 participants, including representatives from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Region 4A, bus operators, and regular motorists using the Skyway System, South Luzon Expressway

(SLEX), and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR Tollway). With its focus on the unique challenges faced by motorists in the southern region, the forum highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts between regulatory agencies and private entities to improve road safety standards.

Both forums served as platforms to identify practical solutions for highway safety challenges, such as enhancing driver training programs, reinforcing road signage visibility, and ensuring prompt response to accidents. These initiatives align with the shared vision of IBP QC Chapter and San Miguel Infrastructure Corp. to create safer roads for all.

Through these forums, the IBP QC Chapter and TASK Program demonstrated the power of multi-sectoral

collaboration in advancing public safety. By engaging stakeholders from various sectors, they underscored the shared responsibility of every motorist, operator, and policymaker in upholding safety and accountability on the road. With these successful events as a foundation, the partnership looks forward to expanding its reach and impact, contributing to a safer and more responsible driving culture across the country.

IBP QUEZON CITY *and* SMC INFRASTRUCTURE'S TASK PROGRAM PARTNER

for Road Safety Exhibit at Presidential Car Museum



In collaboration with SMC Infrastructure's *Tamang Asal sa Kalsada* (TASK) Program, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) participated in a strategic meeting at the Presidential Car Museum, located within Quezon Memorial Circle, on November 6, 2024. The meeting brought together experts and advocates to conceptualize an innovative and educational *Road Safety Exhibit* designed specifically for young learners.

The upcoming TASK Road Safety Exhibit aims to promote road safety awareness among children and young adults through engaging, interactive displays and educational materials. Featuring hands-on activities, multimedia presentations, and simulated road scenarios, the exhibit is envisioned to teach fundamental concepts such as pedestrian safety, responsible driving habits, and traffic rules in a fun and accessible manner.

The partnership between IBP QC Chapter and SMC Infrastructure underscores their shared commitment to fostering a culture of safety on the roads, while also promoting community engagement. By combining legal expertise and corporate advocacy, the exhibit seeks to instill a lifelong appreciation for road safety among the next generation.



IBP QUEZON CITY PARTNERS *with* SMC INFRASTRUCTURE *to* PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY *and* AWARENESS NATIONWIDE



In an effort to promote road safety and foster a culture of responsible driving, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) has teamed up with the *Tamang Asal sa Kalsada (TASK)* Program of San Miguel Infrastructure Corp. (SMC Infrastructure). This collaboration aims to develop and distribute comprehensive educational materials that emphasize road safety and the rights and responsibilities of motorists. These materials

will be disseminated across tollways operated by SMC Infrastructure, reaching a wide audience of road users nationwide.

The initiative is designed to address the growing concerns surrounding traffic-related incidents and disputes. By educating motorists on proper road behavior, traffic laws, and the importance of mutual respect among road users, the IBP QC Chapter and SMC Infrastructure seek to reduce the frequency of



accidents and enhance overall road safety. By reaching an estimated 856,000 road users from October 25 to December 8, 2024, the campaign set a significant precedent for private and public sector collaboration in addressing critical societal issues like road safety. It also underscored the value of empowering motorists with knowledge, which is a crucial step in reducing road-related conflicts and accidents.

This collaboration between IBP QC Chapter and SMC Infrastructure builds on both organizations' commitment to public education and safety. The IBP QC Chapter, known for its legal expertise and advocacy, brings a unique perspective on the importance of following the law to ensure the welfare of the public. On the other hand, SMC Infrastructure, as a leading player in infrastructure development, has long championed initiatives aimed at improving the country's road network and promoting road safety.

By combining expertise and resources, the IBP QC Chapter and SMC TASK partnership has not only empowered motorists but has also set a benchmark for impactful road safety advocacy. The success of this initiative offers hope for a safer and more mindful driving culture in the Philippines

San Rafael Rizal Public
Elementary School

August
25, 2023

15th Avenue
Elementary School

Ponciano Bernardo
Elementary School



Talisay, Batangas

Nagpayong High School in Pasig



July and
August
2024



BRIGADA *Eskwela*

Baguio, Brigada Eskwela



San Martin De Porres
Day Care Centers



August
1, 2023

Barangay San Martin
De Porres, Cubao Quezon City
Barangay Socorro,
Cubao Quezon City
Barangay Kaunlaran, Quezon City



Rosario Child Development Center, Pasig City

FOSTERING LEARNING *and* INCLUSION:

IBP QC Chapter's Impactful Brigada Eskwela Projects *in 2023 and 2024*

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has remained steadfast in its commitment to uplifting communities and supporting education through its Brigada Eskwela initiatives. Over the past two years, the chapter has actively collaborated with various partners to enhance learning environments and provide essential supplies to underserved students across the country.

In August 2023, IBP QC Chapter partnered with Boysen Paints to donate high quality paint to public schools in Cubao, Quezon City, and San Rafael, Rizal, revitalizing classrooms to create brighter and more conducive spaces for learning. This initiative extended to Baguio City in September 2023, ensuring that schools in the region also benefited from fresh and inspiring educational environments.

In 2024, IBP QC Chapter deepened its focus on direct student support through an expanded partnership with the Rotary Club of Pasig Premier. On July 20, the chapter distributed raincoats, school bags, educational supplies, and hygiene kits to students at the Atty. Francisco De Guzman Special Education Center and Venancio Trinidad Memorial School in

Talisay, Batangas. This was followed by similar activities at Nagpayong High School in Pasig City on August 4, and the Rosario Daycare and Preschool in Rosario, Pasig on August 12. These donations addressed the practical needs of students, equipping them for success in both their academic and daily lives. Furthermore, the chapter demonstrated its commitment to inclusivity by donating school supplies to Muslim students in Barangay San Martin de Porres, Cubao.

These multifaceted initiatives reflect IBP QC Chapter's holistic approach to supporting education—enhancing physical learning spaces, addressing the practical needs of students, and fostering inclusivity. Through these activities, the chapter underscores the importance of collaboration with private and civic organizations to amplify the impact of community service.

IBP QC Chapter's Brigada Eskwela efforts in 2023 and 2024 highlight its dedication to empowering youth and promoting education as a cornerstone of societal progress. These initiatives not only uplift communities but also inspire hope and opportunity for the next generation, solidifying the chapter's role as a vital partner in nation-building.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY:

IBP Quezon City Chapter's “Kontra-Bigay” Legal Help Desk Empowers Voters

On October 30, 2023, as the nation cast its votes for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter stood as a staunch advocate for electoral integrity by establishing the “Kontra-Bigay” Legal Assistance Help Desk at the Quezon City Hall.

This initiative addressed one of the most pervasive challenges in Philippine elections—vote-buying and vote-selling—by offering legal assistance to individuals affected by such incidents.



The help desk was a beacon of hope for those who sought to ensure fairness in the electoral process. It served as a platform for reporting and addressing cases of electoral fraud, promoting accountability, and reinforcing the rule of law. The initiative underscored IBP QC Chapter's unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of justice, where every vote counts and every voter's choice is respected.

Leading this effort was Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, Chairperson of the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Committee, alongside Legal Aid Clinic Head Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza. Together, they mobilized the chapter's Volunteer Lawyers Corps and the office's Legal Aid Clerks to man the help desk throughout election day. These dedicated lawyers provided free legal consultations, assisted complainants in filing affidavits, and guided them in taking appropriate legal action against electoral misconduct. Their presence at the help desk highlighted the critical role of legal professionals in safeguarding democratic processes.

The “Kontra-Bigay” Help Desk initiative also underscored the value of community collaboration. By situating the desk at the Quezon City Hall—a central and accessible location—IBP QC Chapter ensured that its services were within reach for voters from all walks of life. The proactive approach of the chapter resonated with its mission to uphold justice and empower citizens to stand against corruption.

IBP QC Chapter's efforts during the elections serve as a reminder of the legal profession's pivotal role in championing democracy. Beyond the courtroom, lawyers can actively participate in nation-building by addressing systemic issues that undermine public trust in governance. Initiatives like “Kontra-Bigay” exemplify the positive impact of legal aid programs in promoting transparency and accountability in public affairs.

As the proverbial dust on the barangay elections have settled and the country is preparing for a new round of national elections in 2025, the IBP QC Chapter remains committed to pursuing justice and fostering an empowered electorate. The success of the “Kontra-Bigay” Help Desk is not only a testament to the dedication of its volunteer lawyers but also a call to action for more initiatives that ensure the integrity of the democratic process. In doing so, IBP QC Chapter continues to inspire trust and hope in the promise of a fair and just society.

DRIVING DIGITAL COURTROOM REVOLUTION:

IBP QC Turns Over Videoconferencing Hearing Equipment *worth ₱5 Million*



In the spirit of giving and collaboration, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) turned over advanced videoconferencing equipment to 40 Trial Courts in Quezon City on December 20, 2023. The ceremonial handover, held at the Judges' Lounge, 4th

Floor of the Quezon City Old Hall of Justice, highlighted IBP QC Chapter's commitment to enhancing access to justice.

The event was graced by IBP QC Chapter officers, including President Atty. Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda and Treasurer Atty. Cherrie

B. Belmonte-Lim, along with Legal Aid Committee Chairperson Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino and Executive Committee Member Atty. Cynthia Corazon G. Roxas. Notable judicial officials also attended, such as Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Executive Judge Rosanna Fe A. Romero-Maglaya, Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) RTC Branch 221 Presiding Judge Jocelyn A. Solis-Reyes, and Supreme Court Assistant Court Administrator Hon. Lilian C. Barribal-Co.

During the ceremony, IBP QC Chapter and the judiciary signed a Memorandum of Agreement, solidifying their partnership to advance justice delivery in Quezon City. Our esteemed judges expressed their gratitude for the support, emphasizing how the equipment would make court proceedings more efficient and equitable.

This turnover exemplifies IBP QC Chapter's dedication to providing innovative solutions and fostering meaningful collaboration with the judiciary, ensuring justice is served efficiently and effectively.

IBP QC Chapter Champions Judicial Efficiency *with* High-Tech Equipment Support

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) continues its advocacy for judicial modernization by donating and facilitating the installation of state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment to 40 Trial Courts in Quezon City. This initiative aims to streamline legal proceedings, ensuring greater efficiency, equity, and transparency for litigants, court personnel, and the public.

**IN EACH OF THE 40 COURTS,
THE INSTALLED EQUIPMENT INCLUDES**

NO.	EQUIPMENT
3	20-inch monitors
2	32-inch Smart HD TVs
5	Mini PCs powered by Intel i3 processors
5	720p HD webcams
1 set	Z213 Compact 2.1 multimedia speakers

The total worth: 5 MILLION PESOS

This significant donation was made possible through the partnership of San Miguel Infrastructure Corp., with additional logistics support from the IBP National Center for Legal Aid.

The success of this project is rooted in IBP QC Chapter’s collaboration with dedicated partners and sponsors, who share its vision of improving the legal system. Through this meaningful donation, IBP QC Chapter demonstrates its staunch commitment to elevating the standards of the judiciary. By integrating technology into courtrooms, the chapter sets a benchmark for fostering justice that is accessible to all.



HEALTH *and* WELFARE *of* LAWYERS

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC Chapter) Chapter has demonstrated its commitment to environmental advocacy through impactful activities in 2023 and 2024, fostering a deeper connection between the legal profession, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.

By combining reforestation, environmental awareness, and art education, the chapter underscores its commitment to a holistic approach to advocacy, demonstrating that the legal profession can be a powerful force for positive environmental change.





“ *A healthy planet and healthy people
are two sides of the same coin.* **”**

– Dr. Margaret Chan,
Executive Director of the
World Health Organization

IBP QC CHAPTER LAWYERS PROUDLY PARTICIPATE *in* TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY, PROTECTING *the* ENVIRONMENT ONE TREE *at a* TIME



On June 25, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter demonstrated its unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship through a highly successful tree-planting activity held at Camp Sinai in Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo, Rizal. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Rizal's lush landscapes, the event brought together IBP QC Chapter lawyers and local stakeholders in a collective effort to contribute to the reforestation of this vital area.

Guided by a shared vision of sustainability and ecological balance, the participants planted hundreds of native tree saplings, including narra, molave, and mahogany throughout the day, thus showcasing the chapter's proactive approach to addressing pressing environmental issues and the pivotal role played by lawyers as agents of change not only in the courtroom but also in the field of societal and environmental advocacy.

This tree-planting initiative aligns with

IBP QC Chapter's broader advocacy for sustainability and corporate social responsibility. By engaging in this activity, IBP QC Chapter sends an undeniable message about the legal profession's role in fostering environmental consciousness. Trees not only combat climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide but also prevent soil erosion, improve air quality, and provide habitats for countless species—making the activity a meaningful contribution to combating the environmental challenges of our time.

The tree-planting activity at Camp Sinai stands as a testament to what can be achieved when individuals and organizations come together for a common cause. By nurturing the seeds of change—both literally and figuratively—IBP QC Chapter not only contributes to a greener planet but also reinforces its dedication to leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

SINING AND KALUSUGAN: BUILDING ROBUST COMMUNITIES THROUGH *Wellness, Art, and Advocacy*



On September 22, 2024, the vibrant RAVE Rainforest Park in Maybunga, Pasig became a hub of health, creativity, and environmental consciousness as the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter and the Rotary Club of Pasig Premier came together to host the “Sining and Kalusugan” community event. The activity, which translates to “Art and Health,” embodied a holistic approach to community service by addressing essential needs while fostering creativity and environmental stewardship.

To promote physical wellness, the day began with a **Zumba session** which brought together participants of all ages for a fun and energetic workout. Thereafter, a **Medical-Dental Mission**, offering free consultations, medicines capped by a dental awareness lecture provided much-needed medical attention to individuals and families who may otherwise have limited access to healthcare. Professional volunteers, including doctors, a dentist, technicians and other health workers ensured that participants received quality care in a welcoming atmosphere. Meanwhile, creativity took center stage in the **Art Talks** segment, which included engaging lectures on painting, book writing and leveraging social media as a tool for storytelling and advocacy. The workshop, led by skilled artists and professionals, empowered participants to explore their creative potential and use art as a medium for self-expression and community engagement. The event saw

the launch of the Youth Eco Champions, young leaders who accepted the challenge of caring for the Earth to make a positive impact by planting seeds of change for a brighter future. Participants learned about sustainable practices, waste management and the importance of protecting natural resources. This campaign aligned with the broader advocacy of both organizing institutions to promote eco-conscious living in urban communities. Atty. Cynthia Roxas, IBP QC Chapter Executive Committee Member and Rotary Club of Pasig Premier President, played a pivotal role in supervising the day’s activities. Her leadership ensured seamless coordination and a welcoming atmosphere that encouraged participation and engagement from the local community.

Drawing a total of 350 participants, the “Sining and Kalusugan” activity demonstrated the power of collaboration between organizations dedicated to service. By addressing physical health, fostering creativity, and raising environmental awareness, the event left a lasting impact on the Maybunga community. It showcased how collective action can create meaningful change, inspiring other organizations to adopt similar initiatives for the betterment of society.

Through this endeavor, IBP QC Chapter and the Rotary Club of Pasig Premier reaffirmed their commitment to improving lives, one meaningful activity at a time.

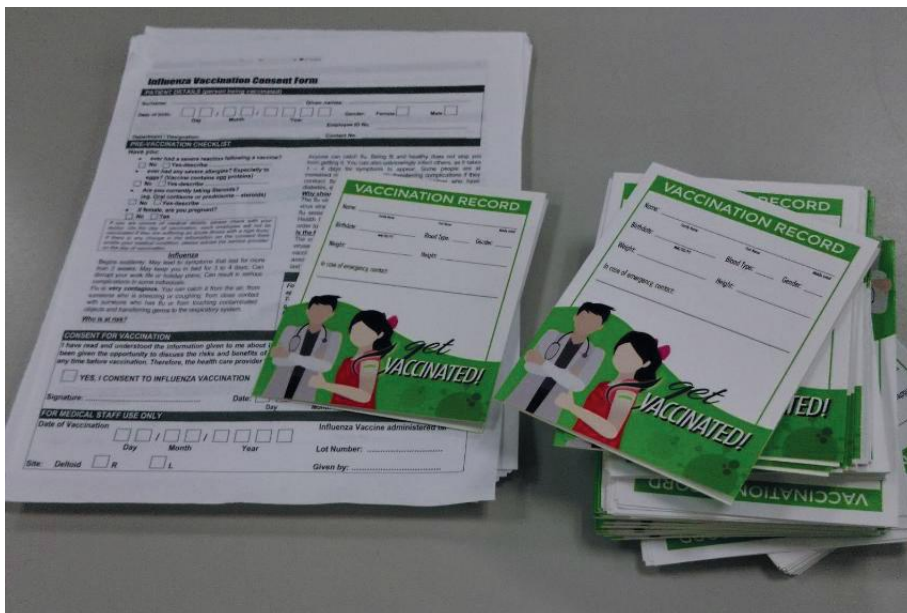
IBP QC CHAPTER'S HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES:

A Commitment *to* Member Well-being *and* Community Service



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has long prioritized the health and well-being of its members, understanding the importance of promoting a healthy and active legal community. In 2024, the chapter launched several initiatives aimed at providing tangible health benefits to its members while fostering a spirit of service within the legal profession. These initiatives include the Flu Vaccination Drive, the Free Health Card Benefits, and the Blood Donation Drive, each designed to address the physical health needs of the IBP QC Chapter community and contribute to larger societal well-being.

On August 2, 2024, the IBP QC Chapter hosted a Flu Vaccination Drive to protect its members from seasonal influenza. This initiative underscored the chapter's commitment to safeguarding the health of its members, particularly during the peak flu season. The drive offered free flu vaccines to IBP QC Chapter members, ensuring that they could continue to serve their clients and the public without the added risk of illness. By prioritizing preventive health measures, the IBP QC Chapter empowered its members to remain active and resilient in their legal practice.





Lastly, on November 29, 2024, the IBP QC Chapter, in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and the Rotary Clubs of Holy Spirit and New Murphy, conducted a Blood Donation Drive. This event not only focused on contributing to the local blood bank but also highlighted the chapter's role in social responsibility. By organizing such events, the IBP QC Chapter demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the community, offering a practical way for members to give back and help save lives. The success of the drive

showcased the chapter's collective commitment to public service and social good.

Through these initiatives, the IBP QC Chapter has once again proven its dedication to fostering a healthy, resilient, and service-oriented legal community. These programs provide much needed support to members, while also contributing to the welfare of the broader community, making health and well-being a priority within the legal profession.

REVOLUTIONIZING LAWYER WELLNESS:

IBP Quezon City Leads *the Way with* Free Health Card Benefits *for* Members

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has once again demonstrated its commitment to prioritizing the well-being of its members by announcing the rollout of Free Health Card Benefits. In partnership with the prestigious Makati Medical Center, IBP QC Chapter members will now enjoy access to comprehensive healthcare services—completely free of charge. This groundbreaking initiative sets IBP QC Chapter apart as the first IBP chapter to offer such an extensive healthcare program for its members.

Under the Free Health Card program, members can avail themselves of a wide range of medical benefits, including consultations, diagnostic procedures, and hospitalization. These benefits also include

NO.	BASIC DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES	BENEFIT
1	Annual Physical Examinations	FREE
2	Chest X-rays	FREE
3	Complete Blood Work	FREE
4	Urinalysis	FREE
5	Physical Fitness Assessments	FREE
6	Fecalysis	FREE
ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES		
7	ECGs	50% Discount
8	2-D Echocardiograms	50% Discount
9	Treadmill Tests	50% Discount

These services ensure that members receive timely medical attention, promoting better overall health and well-being.

The introduction of the Free Health Card Benefits is a timely and critical response to the rising costs of healthcare in the Philippines. By providing access to essential medical services without financial burden, IBP QC Chapter aims to alleviate the stress and challenges that often accompany healthcare expenses. This initiative highlights the chapter’s dedication to supporting its members not just professionally but personally, recognizing that good health is integral to effective legal practice and overall quality of life.

The partnership with Makati Medical Center also ensures that members receive top-notch medical care, further solidifying IBP QC Chapter’s reputation as a trailblazer in member welfare programs.



PEACE OF MIND *for* LEGAL PROFESSIONALS:

IBP QC Chapter's Life Insurance Partnership *with* Sun Life



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) has taken a transformative step in championing the welfare of its members through a groundbreaking partnership with Sun Life Insurance. This initiative, launched in 2024, aims to provide IBP QC Chapter members with access to tailored life insurance policies, underscoring the chapter's commitment to supporting its members both professionally and personally.

This innovative program is the collective brainchild of IBP QC Chapter's Board of Officers, who recognized the pressing need for lawyers to have a robust safety net in the face of life's uncertainties. By partnering with one of the country's most trusted insurance providers, IBP QC Chapter ensures that its members have access to a reliable means of securing their families'

financial futures, safeguarding against unexpected developments that could impact their loved ones.

To further promote this opportunity, IBP QC Chapter is leveraging its social media platforms to reach its members and encourage them to participate. Members interested in availing of this program must register by January 25, 2025. Details about the insurance policies, premium rates, and registration process are available through IBP QC Chapter's official communication channels.

This partnership represents more than just a financial product; it reflects IBP QC Chapter's holistic approach to supporting its members, providing peace of mind and stability in an ever-demanding profession. By taking advantage of this initiative, IBP QC Chapter members can secure not only their legal legacy but also the well-being of their families, creating a brighter and more secure future for all.





COMBATING ILLEGAL NOTARIES: IBP QC CHAPTER'S VIGILANT CAMPAIGN *for* INTEGRITY *in* LEGAL PRACTICE

“*The profession of law is a calling to the highest standards of ethics, moral duty, and integrity. Without these values, the legal profession will lose its authority and respect.* **”**

– Justice Sandra Day O'Connor,
U.S. Supreme Court

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has intensified its fight against illegal notarial activities through a series of strategic actions aimed at protecting the integrity of the legal profession and safeguarding public trust.

On October 22, 2024, IBP QC Chapter collaborated with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in a successful entrapment operation targeting unauthorized notarial services at Edsa C Plaza, Congressional Avenue, Bago Bantay, Quezon City. This operation, initiated after receiving reports of unscrupulous individuals exploiting notarial processes, led to the apprehension of those involved in fraudulent practices. The decisive action underscores IBP QC Chapter's commitment to uphold the rule of law and protect individuals from potential legal and financial harm.



A press conference on October 25, 2024, highlighted the operation's details and emphasized the ongoing partnership between IBP QC Chapter and government agencies to combat illegal notarial activities. Speakers from IBP QC Chapter and the NBI stressed the critical need for vigilance and public cooperation in addressing this pervasive issue.

Further demonstrating its proactive stance, **IBP QC Chapter hosted the Summit on Safeguarding Notarial Activity on December 6, 2024.** The event featured esteemed speakers such as Regional Trial Court FC-13 Presiding Judge Lily Ann M. Padaen and representatives from the NBI, Land Registration Authority, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Department of Foreign Affairs. The summit focused on strengthening safeguards in the notarial process, addressing systemic vulnerabilities, and enhancing inter-agency collaboration to prevent fraudulent practices.





A significant aspect of IBP QC Chapter's advocacy is its decisive action against individuals fraudulently misrepresenting legal professionals. **This was exemplified in a November 21, 2024, TV Patrol interview where IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic Head Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza detailed efforts to prosecute a person using the credentials of a deceased lawyer.** The segment, aired by ABS-CBN News reporter Niko Baua, brought widespread public attention to the issue and IBP QC Chapter's unwavering resolve to protect the integrity of the profession.

IBP QC Chapter's campaign highlights the vital role of the legal community in addressing illegal practices, ensuring accountability, and fostering trust. Through collaborative actions, public awareness, and institutional partnerships, IBP QC Chapter remains steadfast in its mission to uphold justice and professional ethics.

SAFEGUARDING NOTARIAL INTEGRITY:

A Landmark Summit *by* IBP Quezon City



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter hosted the Summit on Safeguarding Notarial Integrity on December 6, 2024, at Lecture Room B, Legislative Wing, Quezon City Hall High-Rise Building. The summit, held from 8 AM to 2 PM, gathered experts and stakeholders to tackle pressing issues surrounding notarial practice and the unauthorized practice of law.

The event commenced with the Opening Ceremonies, led by Atty. Melody S. Favis, who served as Master of Ceremonies. Following the National Anthem, Opening Prayer, and IBP March, IBP QC Chapter President Atty. Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda delivered an inspiring welcome address, setting the tone for the day with an overview of the summit's goals: to ensure notarial integrity and strengthen the public's trust in legal documents.

A series of insightful presentations followed. Atty. Rowell D. Ilagan, Public Relations Officer of IBP QC Chapter, discussed the challenges posed by fake notaries and the chapter's efforts in enforcing notarial rules. Hon. Judge Lily Ann D. Marcos-Padaen, Presiding Judge of RTC Branch FC-13, shared the rigorous qualifications required for notaries and the judiciary's role in screening applicants.

The summit also examined the impact of fraudulent practices on government agencies. Representatives from the Land Registration Authority (Atty. Elbert T. Quilala), Bureau of Internal Revenue (Attys. Yvette Marie Y. Nañadiego, Neri Danessa B. Labayo, and Cicero D. Claro), National Bureau of Investigation (Atty. Jeremy C. Lotoc), and Department of Foreign Affairs (Atty. Manuel C. Ayap) shared their experiences and measures to counter fake documents and notaries.

The event concluded with a dynamic open forum, certificates of appreciation for speakers, and closing remarks by Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, IBP QC Chapter Auditor. Participants left inspired to uphold ethical notarial practices, capped by a networking lunch fostering collaboration among legal professionals.

This summit reaffirmed IBP Quezon City Chapter's commitment to preserving the integrity of notarial services and protecting the public from fraudulent practices, setting a benchmark for legal excellence.

IBP QC CHAPTER BOARD SUBMITS NOTARIAL REFORM RESOLUTION

to Supreme Court and Key Government Agencies



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC Chapter) Board of Officers has submitted a landmark resolution to the Supreme Court Office of Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo for further review, endorsement, and implementation. Copies of the resolution have also been sent to the Supreme Court Office of Hon. Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa, the Supreme Court Office of the Court Administrator Raul B. Villanueva, the Office of Executive Judge Rosanna Fe A. Romero-Maglaya of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, the Land Registration Authority (LRA), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). These submissions underscore the IBP QC

Chapter's commitment to fostering collaboration among judicial and government stakeholders to address critical issues in notarial practice and the illegal practice of law.

The resolution, approved on December 17, 2024, stems from actionable reforms recommended during the IBP QC Chapter Summit on Notarial Rules and Illegal Practice of Law held on December 6, 2024. With the theme "Strengthening Public Trust Through Verification, Accountability, and Collaboration in Notarial Practice," the summit convened legal experts and government representatives to tackle the proliferation of fake notarized documents and unauthorized legal services. The resolution outlines the following key reforms:



Creation of a Secure Electronic Database of Registered Notaries Public

A centralized electronic registry, to be managed by the Office of the Clerk of Court, is proposed to enable government agencies and the public to verify the legitimacy of notarial services.



Implementation of Stringent Verification Protocols

The resolution calls for government offices to adopt robust verification protocols, including cross-referencing notarized documents against the proposed registry, to prevent the acceptance of fraudulent notarizations.



Enhanced Penalties for Fake Notarization and Unauthorized Legal Practices

Stricter penalties, including higher fines, longer imprisonment, and administrative sanctions, are recommended to deter fake notarization and illegal services.

By submitting the resolution to the Supreme Court and key government agencies, the IBP QC Chapter Board aims to facilitate the swift implementation of these reforms. This initiative underscores the Board's commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and collaboration within the legal system while restoring public trust in notarial practice.

The IBP QC Chapter Board's proactive approach highlights the critical role of collective action among judicial and government institutions in safeguarding the integrity of the legal profession and protecting public interest.



BRIDGING BORDERS THROUGH LEGAL AID:

IBP QC Chapter's Commitment *to* Legal Empowerment *for* OFWs *in* Morocco *and* Barcelona

In 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) continued its commitment to providing legal aid to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) through two international missions, aimed at empowering Filipinos abroad with the legal knowledge and support they need. These initiatives, held in partnership with various diplomatic and governmental agencies, underscored IBP QC Chapter's dedication to addressing the pressing legal concerns of the Filipino diaspora.



The first event, titled “Huwag Magsisi, Itanong Sa IBP QC Chapter!” took place in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy of Morocco and the Migrant Workers’ Office (MWO) in Rabat on November 10, 2024.

This joint legal aid clinic sought to support OFWs in Morocco by providing them with direct access to legal consultations and resources.



A key feature of this event was an online seminar hosted by the IBP QC Chapter Board of Officers, which addressed common legal issues such as family law, inheritance, property disputes, labor concerns, and data privacy.



Additionally, a lot of OFWs had the opportunity to engage in free one-on-one consultations with our volunteer lawyers, ensuring that each participant's specific concerns were thoroughly addressed.



Just a week later, on **November 16, 2024**, IBP QC Chapter organized another impactful event, **“Legal Empowerment Day,”** at the invitation of the **Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona**.

IBP QC Chapter President, Atty. Melissa Encanto-Tagarda, led an insightful discussion on key legal issues such as child custody, inheritance, and marital separations, providing participants with valuable knowledge to navigate these concerns while Atty. Manuel Silva of the Barcelona-based firm MSM Legal Consulting explained possible pathways for OFWs to residency in Spain, including issues on employment and obtaining student and work visas, etc. The event also featured free one-on-one legal consultations (in person and online), where IBP QC Chapter officers provided advice to participants from Barcelona and nearby areas and nearby areas, including recent arrivals from the Philippines. The program served as a vital bridge for overseas Filipinos seeking clarity and support for their legal matters.



Both events were designed to not only provide immediate legal assistance but also to foster a deeper understanding of the rights and protections available to OFWs. Through these initiatives, IBP QC Chapter continues to strengthen its support for Filipinos abroad, ensuring they have the resources and guidance to navigate the complexities of legal systems outside the Philippines.





At the **HEART of LAWYERING: A COMMITMENT to LEGAL AID**

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic has been at the forefront of bridging justice and service throughout the year, embodying the core mission of making the law accessible to all. With an unwavering dedication most especially to the marginalized and underrepresented—indigents, minority groups, and everyday citizens alike—we have gone beyond traditional legal activities. From providing free legal consultations and representation to organizing community outreach programs and innovative fundraising efforts, we strive to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. The past two years' accomplishments reflect a deep dedication to inclusivity and equity, ensuring that every voice is heard, every concern is addressed, and justice is brought closer to those who need it most.

IBP QC LEGAL AID CLINIC STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

QUANTITY

Number of members (IBP QC Legal Aid Volunteer Corps):	289
Number of pro bono cases:	110
Number of PDLs assisted:	594
Number of clients assisted/ advised (Walk-in/online):	1,265
Number of clients assisted/advised (Brgy. Legal Aid Caravans):	14,895
Number of clients served (Other Developmental Legal Aid Program i.e. TASK, IPRA, Women and Children, PWDs, Senior Citizen ,etc):	850,102

Justice *Within* Reach:

Free Legal Consultations *for All*

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic is the key program of the IBP QC Chapter, embodying our core mission to provide accessible legal services to the public. Located at the 4th Floor, IBP QC Chapter Office, Old Hall of Justice, Quezon City Hall Complex, Quezon City, the clinic operates Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 5 PM, offering free legal consultations to anyone in need.



Open to all members of the community, our clinic provides a vital resource for individuals seeking legal advice, regardless of their background or circumstances. Offering both onsite and online services, we ensure that legal assistance is accessible to a wider audience. This invaluable service is made possible through the dedication of our legal aid lawyers, who volunteer their time and expertise to assist those who might otherwise be unable to afford legal services. Under the leadership of Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino, Legal Aid Chairman, and Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, Legal Aid Clinic Head, the clinic continues to be an essential resource for those in need of legal support.

Justice *on the Move*:

Bringing Justice *to* Communities : Barangay Legal Aid Caravan

Justice should never be confined to the walls of an office or limited to those with the time and means to access it. At the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic, we hold firmly to the belief that justice must extend to every individual, regardless of where they are. This conviction has driven us to go beyond traditional legal aid, transforming our services into a mobile force for justice that directly engages Quezon City's diverse communities.

Through our groundbreaking efforts, supported by local government offices and strengthened by partnerships with various organizations and broadcast media outlets including DWPM TeleRadyo Serbisyo 630's "Hello Attorney" program with Atty. Noel del Prado." Barangay halls and community centers have become accessible hubs of empowerment, where residents receive professional legal guidance and critical legal information without the burden of additional travel or expense.





In addition to free legal consultations, the clinic provides barangay officials with the *Katarungang Pambarangay* seminar, equipping Barangay Lupon with essential knowledge to mediate and resolve disputes effectively. This initiative not only empowers grassroots leaders but also fosters stronger community ties by addressing conflicts at their roots.

This is more than just legal aid—it's a movement to ensure that justice serves everyone, not just the few who can seek it out. By simplifying complex legal language and turning it into a lifeline for everyday citizens, we empower communities with the legal tools they need to thrive. At the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic, we are redefining what it means to serve, proving that when justice moves toward the people, no one is left behind.

Batas at Lunas:

Talakayan at Usapang Legal Para sa mga Katanungan ng Bayan

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic continues its mission to bring the law closer to the people through its groundbreaking initiative, *Batas at Lunas*. This live Facebook webinar series simplifies legal concepts and addresses common legal questions in a way that is accessible to ordinary citizens.



Through this platform, our legal professionals break down complex issues into practical, everyday language, empowering viewers with knowledge that can help them navigate their rights and responsibilities. Whether it's understanding tenancy laws, labor rights, or remedies for family disputes, *Batas at Lunas* bridges the gap between the legal world and the public it serves.

True to its name, the program embodies both justice (*batas*) and solutions (*lunas*), ensuring that everyone, regardless of background, can gain clarity on legal matters that impact their lives.

Breaking Barriers: Redefining Access *to* Justice

At the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic, we firmly believe that justice must be inclusive, transcending boundaries of race, gender, religion, and socioeconomic status. Our commitment to going beyond the usual legal aid practices drives us to provide targeted initiatives to vulnerable sectors who often face compounded challenges in accessing legal remedies. Whether addressing the needs of Indigenous Peoples, the LGBTQ+ community, or persons with disabilities, we ensure our services reach those who are too often overlooked and unheard. By amplifying the voices of these groups, the IBP QC Legal Aid Clinic stands as a steadfast advocate for justice, equity, and inclusion for all, bridging the divide between the law and those who need it most.



BOSES NG KATUTUBO:

IPRA Noon, Ano Na Ngayon, *at* Paano Na Bukas?: Human Rights *and* Indigenous People's Forum

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic hosted a significant forum on December 7, 2024, at Fersal Hotel - Malakas to revisit the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and reflect on its relevance in today's evolving world. The event featured esteemed speakers: Gabrielle Chuwaley Capuyan, spokesperson of TAKDER (Cordillera Youth Movement for Democracy and Prosperity), who shed light on the Cordillera situation; Atty. Neri Javier Colmenares, former member of the House of Representatives and current Bayan Muna Chairman, who revisited IPRA's legal framework; and Kakay Tolentino, national coordinator of the BAI Indigenous Women's Network, who explored its application in the modern context.

This gathering ignited vital discussions on the intersection of human rights and Indigenous rights, emphasizing the need to prioritize their protection within the broader framework of legal advocacy. It highlighted the systemic challenges Indigenous Peoples continue to face, from land disputes to cultural preservation, and underscored the urgency of addressing these issues with compassion and expertise.

While based in the city, the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing human rights by supporting Indigenous communities. Through ongoing guidance and legal assistance, we transcend geographical barriers to ensure these communities are heard and their rights upheld. By fostering a deeper understanding of their unique struggles, we empower our legal professionals to advocate effectively for justice, equity, and representation for Indigenous Peoples—a vital step toward building a society that values and protects all voices.



PROJECT MUBARAK:

Going Beyond Limits, *Uplifting* Muslim Communities



At the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic, we hold steadfast to the belief that justice transcends creed, culture, and faith. Our commitment to inclusivity means that we serve all—without exception—because legal aid should never be bound by distinctions of belief or creed. With *Project Mubarak*, held on August 10, 2024, in Barangay San Martin de Porres, we reaffirmed this principle by engaging with Muslim communities and acknowledging their unique cultural and legal challenges.

Under the leadership of Atty. Rowell D. Ilagan, IBP QC Chapter's Public Relations Officer, this initiative brought tailored legal services to the heart of the community. Recognizing the importance of respecting diverse traditions while upholding universal rights, *Project Mubarak* became a powerful reminder that justice is for everyone—uniting us in service and bridging gaps between cultures. At the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic, we continue to break barriers and ensure that every individual, regardless of faith, has access to the legal assistance they deserve.

Elderly Empowerment:

IBP QC Chapter Cares *for* Senior Citizens



Additionally, the information dissemination ensures that seniors are well-informed about their rights, available social services, and legal protections. Brochures, informational sessions, and workshops will be provided to ensure that seniors are not only aware of their legal entitlements but also empowered to act on them.

The goal of this project is to reduce the barriers that often prevent older adults from accessing the legal help they need. By offering free legal services and distributing vital information, the initiative helps to alleviate the stress and uncertainty seniors may face when dealing with legal matters. Whether it's drafting a will, understanding pension rights, or dealing with elder abuse, the program provides peace of mind for seniors, knowing they have expert legal support at their fingertips.

With the aging population growing, initiatives like these play a crucial role in ensuring that our elders can live with dignity, security, and access to justice. This service is a reminder that legal support is a fundamental right, and no one, regardless of age, should have to face legal challenges alone.



In an effort to support and protect the rights of senior citizens, the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic offered free legal consultations and information dissemination to help older adults navigate the complexities of legal matters that affect them. This invaluable service provides seniors with the materials they need to understand their legal rights, resolve issues, and safeguard their well-being.

As senior citizens often face unique challenges—such as navigating healthcare rights, estate planning, elder abuse, inheritance issues, and more—this program aims to make legal assistance more accessible and less daunting. Through free consultations, experienced lawyers and legal professionals are offering one-on-one advice, helping seniors address legal questions and concerns in a compassionate and easy-to-understand manner.

HEARING EVERY VOICE:

Legal Aid *for the* Differently-Abled



The Legal Aid Program for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with the Persons with Disability Affairs Office, is an essential resource aimed at protecting the rights of people with disabilities. It ensures that individuals with disabilities are not left in the dark when it comes to legal services. By providing specialized, accessible legal assistance, this program contributes to building a more inclusive and equitable society for everyone.

ENSURING SAFETY:

A Unified Effort *for the* Protection of Children

The alarming rise in child abuse cases has called for immediate and effective action. In response to this urgent issue, the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic has partnered with various Women and Children Protection Units (WCPU), including the National Children's Hospital and East Avenue Medical Center, to create a streamlined process for referring Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) cases. Initiated in October 2024, this collaboration aims to establish a standardized and efficient referral system that not only protects the rights of children but also provides clear guidance on where to seek help and who to contact when these situations arise.



Under the leadership of Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic Head, and Atty. Rodolfo John Paul C. Palattao III, IBP QC Chapter GAD Vice Chairman, and with the expertise of partners such as Dr. Elsie Lynn B. Lontoc and Ms. May B. Sales from the National Children's Hospital's WCPU team, the project bridges the gap between medical, social, and legal services. This ensures that every child facing abuse knows their rights and has access to the support they need. This partnership represents a vital step in strengthening our legal framework to better protect and support children, particularly those most at risk.



In addition to this framework, IBP QC Chapter extended its efforts through a donation drive in collaboration with Mbrace Project Inc. Together, we provided milk to young cancer patients and offered both legal and emotional support to their mothers. These acts of compassion underscore IBP QC Chapter's commitment to holistic child welfare—combining swift justice, tangible aid, and heartfelt advocacy.



At the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic, we remain steadfast in our mission to safeguard children's rights, empower families, and ensure that no child or caregiver is left without the care and support they need. Through partnerships like these, we continue to create a future of hope and security for our most vulnerable.

WOMEN FIRST:

Legal Support, Wellness, *and* Community Care

In an effort to uplift and empower women during Women's Month, the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic proudly hosted a unique event titled “Dasurv Mo Day!” on March 22, 2024 at Barangays Katipunan and Bungad, which combined practical skills, self care wellness experiences, and essential legal services. The event featured a **cooking demonstration**, **free wellness services**, and **legal aid consultations**, all aimed at promoting women's health, well-being, and rights.



The **cooking demonstration** focused on affordable, nutritious, and easy-to-make meals that can help women improve their overall health and well-being as well as their family, even on a budget. Chef Laurence “Lao” Castillo of the Gulay Na food heritage organization and our very own Atty. Cynthia Corazon G. Roxas guided the participants through simple, healthy recipes, emphasizing the importance of proper nutrition for both physical and mental wellness.



In addition to the cooking workshop, **free wellness services** were offered, including stress-relief activities such as haircuts, massages and manicures/pedicures. These services aim to foster a sense of empowerment and well-being among attendees, addressing the often-overlooked aspect of self-care.

Furthermore, the team provided **free legal aid** to women in these communities, offering advice on issues such as domestic violence, child custody, labor rights, and other legal challenges women frequently face. Trained legal professionals were present to answer questions, offer guidance, and ensure that women are aware of their legal rights and how to protect them.



This event is more than just a day of activities; it's an opportunity to provide women with the tools they need to enhance their lives and well-being. By combining education, wellness, and legal support, we aimed to create a nurturing environment where women feel empowered, supported, and equipped to face the challenges they encounter.

BREAKING *the* CHAINS:

Bringing Justice Behind Bars

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic goes beyond the confines of traditional advocacy with *Breaking the Chains: Jail Decongestion Project*, an initiative that addresses the challenges faced by Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) and the systemic issue of overcrowded jails. This project reflects IBP QC Chapter's steadfast commitment to ensuring justice, dignity, and second chances for all, including those behind bars.



Breaking the Chains provides free legal consultations to PDLs, focusing on unresolved cases, plea bargaining agreements, and expediting the resolution of minor offenses. These efforts not only pave the way for rehabilitation and reintegration but also significantly contribute to easing jail congestion, fostering more humane living conditions within detention facilities.

The project also extends its reach beyond legal aid, offering tangible support to PDLs and their families. Donations of groceries, essential supplies, and computers aim to improve day-to-day living conditions and enhance rehabilitation programs.

At its heart, *Breaking the Chains* underscores the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic's belief that justice should be comprehensive, compassionate, and accessible, ensuring that even the voices behind bars are not just heard but valued.



TASK: Tamang Asal sa Kalsada

Driving toward a safer and more informed community, the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic, in partnership with SMC Infrastructure, launched *TASK: Tamang Asal sa Kalsada*. This initiative aims to promote road safety and educate drivers on their rights and responsibilities.



From engaging seminars and interactive school programs to the wide distribution of informative flyers, TASK extends its reach to drivers, commuters, and pedestrians alike. The program culminated in the launch of the TASK Exhibit at the Quezon City Circle's Presidential Car Museum, where attendees gained insights into road safety laws and responsible driving practices.

By blending legal education with practical awareness, TASK: Tamang Asal sa Kalsada empowers road users to navigate streets with confidence and accountability, fostering a culture of respect and safety on our roads. This project exemplifies how the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic goes beyond traditional legal advocacy to address everyday concerns that affect the community.

Fueling Justice:

Fundraising Projects *for the* Benefit *of the* IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic

Justice is not just an ideal; it is a necessity that every individual deserves. Yet, making it accessible to those who need it most requires more than passion—it demands unwavering support and resources.

At the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic, we are proud to champion the cause of legal assistance for the underserved, but sustaining this mission calls for a collective effort. Through our fundraising initiatives, we aim to rally a shared belief in the transformative power of justice, inviting our community to play an active role in ensuring that free legal aid remains within reach for those who need it most. Together, we can build a future where justice knows no boundaries, and every call for help is met with compassion and action.



Hunger *for* Support:

A Block Screening *for* a Cause

On November 8, 2023, the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic proudly hosted its first fundraising event—a block screening of *Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*—at Greenhills Promenade, Cinema 8, at 4 PM. The event was not just an opportunity to watch a highly anticipated film but served as a crucial means to raise funds for the Legal Aid Clinic’s mission to provide free legal assistance to those in need. As the clinic continues to reach out to underserved communities in Quezon City, this fundraising initiative played a key role in sustaining and expanding efforts to ensure justice remains accessible to all, regardless of their background or financial capacity.

The funds raised from the screening were channeled into strengthening the clinic’s legal services, ensuring the continuation of professional legal guidance without barriers of cost or distance. Every ticket sold brought us closer to empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the legal landscape. In a world where legal services are often a luxury, this event underscored our belief that access to justice is a right, not a privilege. Thanks to the support of those who attended, the event was a success in furthering our cause—proving that when we come together, we can make justice accessible for all.



PAYAGPAG:

An IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Benefit Ball

On the evening of September 28, 2024, the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic hosted its inaugural benefit ball and recognition night, *Payagpag: An IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Benefit Ball*, at the prestigious Solaire Resort North in Quezon City. This landmark event gathered over 500 distinguished guests, including luminaries from the legal field, community leaders, and steadfast supporters of the clinic's mission.



The evening was a celebration of dedication, partnership, and the unwavering commitment to providing free legal assistance to those in need.

With keynote addresses by esteemed Justices Jhosep Y. Lopez and Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega, the night underscored the profound impact of collective efforts in advancing access to justice. Spearheaded by Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, IBP QC Chapter's Director and Legal Aid Clinic Head, the event honored the legal aid volunteers, partners, and sponsors who have been instrumental in sustaining the clinic's initiatives. The benefit ball also served as a vital fundraiser, ensuring the continued operation of IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic's services.

Beyond its elegance and grandeur, *Payagpag* carried a profound message: to inspire individuals to step up, volunteer, and join the transformative mission of legal aid. Through heartfelt speeches and the recognition of outstanding contributions, the event reminded everyone that *no good deed is ever left unnoticed*. Each act of service and every effort to advance justice is a vital step in ensuring that the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic can continue to provide critical support to those who need it most. More than a celebration, *Payagpag* was a call to action—a beacon urging legal professionals and advocates to make their mark in the pursuit of justice for all.

LEGAL PRIDE:

The Official Catalogue of IBP QC Chapter Merchandise

The IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic is proud to launch its official merchandise catalogue—a project designed to support our mission of providing free legal aid services. This initiative offers practical and professional items such as jackets, notepads, mugs, ballpens, umbrellas, and more, tailored for the legal community.



What makes this project special is its purpose. Every item in the catalogue is not just a product but a contribution to sustaining the operations of the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic. Proceeds from these sales directly fund our efforts to deliver accessible and free legal aid to marginalized sectors, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of justice.

Through this initiative, we aim to create a sense of shared purpose and solidarity among lawyers and supporters. By incorporating these items into daily life, we collectively demonstrate a commitment to justice and the ongoing effort to make legal aid services a cornerstone of our community.

A Step Forward:

Collaboration for Legal Growth



In a bold stride toward advancing legal education and advocacy, the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic has launched ***A Step Forward: Collaboration for Legal Growth***, a pioneering initiative aimed at fostering partnerships with law schools. This program is more than just a collaboration—it is a bridge between academia and practice, designed to guide law students and immerse them in the dynamic realities of the legal profession. Through this initiative, aspiring lawyers are offered a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in serving the public, honing their skills while

contributing to meaningful causes. By involving students in actual cases and legal aid operations, the program fosters not only technical proficiency but also the compassion and dedication essential to the practice of law. These partnerships stand as a testament to IBP QC Chapter's commitment to nurturing the next generation of legal professionals, ensuring that their journey begins with purpose and a deep understanding of their role in making justice accessible to all.

A Step Forward marks a significant leap in bridging theory and practice, empowering law students to step into their future roles with confidence, competence, and a steadfast commitment to the ideals of justice.

GIVING BACK, GAINING MORE

A Salute *to* Legal Aid Volunteers



Volunteering for legal aid is more than an act of service—it's a journey of personal and professional growth. At the IBP Quezon City Legal Aid Clinic, we deeply value the commitment of our volunteers, recognizing their indispensable role in championing justice for those who need it most. In return for their unwavering dedication, we ensure that their efforts are met with opportunities for development, fellowship, and well-deserved rewards.

Legal aid volunteers with IBP QC Chapter enjoy free registration for specialized seminars, granting them access to the latest insights and developments in the legal field. Tailored mentorship and training programs

further enhance their skills, preparing them for the evolving demands of legal practice. Beyond professional growth, our volunteers are invited to exclusive fellowship nights, complete with free food and drinks—opportunities to unwind, connect, and celebrate the spirit of camaraderie that defines our legal aid community.

Joining the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic is not just about giving back; it's about gaining more—more knowledge, more connections, and more memories that inspire. To our legal aid volunteers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication. Together, we create a community where justice thrives, and no effort goes unnoticed.

STRENGTHENING JUSTICE THROUGH COLLABORATION: HIGHLIGHTS *from* IBP QC CHAPTER'S LEGAL AID VOLUNTEER FELLOWSHIP *and* SUMMIT



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to improving access to justice through two significant events in 2023: the Legal Aid Volunteer Corps Fellowship Activity held on August 25, 2023, at Ihaw Balot Plaza in Scout Borromeo, Quezon City, and the Legal Aid Summit, hosted at Celebrity Sports Club on September 30, 2023. Both initiatives brought together legal professionals dedicated to empowering underserved communities and advancing the cause of justice.

LEGAL AID VOLUNTEER CORPS FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY



The fellowship activity served as a relaxed yet meaningful gathering for the chapter's Legal Aid volunteers. Held in the vibrant and casual atmosphere of Ihaw Balot Plaza, the event fostered camaraderie and celebrated the shared dedication of its participants. Volunteers exchanged personal experiences in handling *pro bono* cases, discussed the challenges of legal outreach, and built stronger professional relationships. This event highlighted the importance of solidarity among volunteers in sustaining IBP QC Chapter's numerous programs and initiatives.



LEGAL AID SUMMIT

Building on the energy of the fellowship, the Legal Aid Summit offered a platform for strategic discussions and professional development. Legal Aid volunteers gathered at the prestigious Celebrity Sports Club to network, share best practices, and deliberate on innovative ways to improve access to justice for marginalized sectors. The event also featured informative and eloquent lectures from some of the chapter's most seasoned Legal Aid lawyers, notably Atty. Oscar Karaan, Atty. Anthony J. Purganan, and Atty. Adonis Edgar A. Macam, as they shared valuable experiences and insights from their long years of practice.

BRIDGING FELLOWSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Both events demonstrated IBP QC Chapter's proactive approach to addressing the legal needs of the underprivileged. The fellowship activity reinforced the sense of community among Legal Aid volunteers, while the summit provided the tools and knowledge necessary to improve their capacity to serve. Together, these events underscored the chapter's commitment to its mission of fostering equal access to justice.

As IBP QC Chapter continues to empower its Legal Aid volunteers, it remains a steadfast advocate for the underserved, ensuring that legal services reach those who need them the most. These gatherings are a testament to the collective effort of the legal community to champion justice and uphold the rule of law in the Philippines.

IBP QC CHAPTER WEBINAR *on the RULES on the UNIFIED LEGAL AID SERVICE:*



A Step Towards Justice for All by *Atty. Marcelino Michael I. Atanante IV*

“ *The greatness of a nation is not measured by its wealth or power but by how its laws uplift the weak and protect the dignity of every individual.* **”**

– Mahatma Gandhi

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) successfully hosted a thought-provoking Zoom webinar on December 6, 2024, centered on the recently approved Rules on the Unified Legal Aid Service (ULAS Rules). The event featured the distinguished Atty. Marcelino Michael I. Atanante IV, Director of the IBP National Center for Legal Aid, as the resource speaker.

Scheduled to take effect on February 3, 2025, the ULAS Rules represent a transformative milestone in the Philippine legal landscape. This Supreme Court initiative mandates that all covered lawyers render at least 60 hours of *pro bono* legal aid over a three-

year period. By institutionalizing a unified framework, the ULAS Rules aim to bridge the gap between legal services and indigent Filipinos, reinforcing the legal profession's social justice mandate.

Director Atanante provided a comprehensive overview of the new rules, shedding light on their purpose, scope, and key provisions. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between IBP chapters, lawyers, and stakeholders in implementing the new system effectively. Highlighting the streamlined processes introduced by the ULAS framework, he underscored how these changes promote a culture of voluntary service while ensuring that the burden of legal aid work

is equitably distributed among practitioners. The discussion also touched on the integration of ULAS into existing legal aid initiatives, with participants expressing optimism about the framework's potential to enhance access to justice for marginalized communities.

IBP QC Chapter's proactive approach to educating its members about pivotal legal reforms was evident in this webinar. As the ULAS Rules near implementation, IBP QC Chapter's initiative serves as an exemplary model for how local chapters can drive the success of legal aid programs. It also highlights the role of the legal profession in advancing equality and justice, ensuring that no Filipino is left behind in the pursuit of legal remedies.

Building a Better Nation Together:

IBP QC's Contribution to Sustainable Development Highlighted at the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair Agency Summit 2024

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter (IBP QC Chapter) took an active role in the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair Agency Summit held from August 19 to 21, 2024, at the PICC Forum Tent, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). The event, spearheaded by the National Secretariat, brought together various government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of fostering interagency collaboration and convergence in policies, programs, and resource alignment to achieve sustainable national development.



Several dedicated volunteer lawyers from IBP QC Chapter participated in the summit, which served as a convergence point for key stakeholders, enabling a productive exchange of ideas and best practices aimed at creating a unified approach to national development. IBP QC Chapter's participation highlighted the vital contribution of the legal community in achieving this goal, showcasing the chapter's steadfast dedication to upholding the rule of law and advancing public interest.

IBP QC Chapter's involvement in this transformative initiative was recognized during the event with a Certificate of Appreciation. Signed by Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the certificate lauded the chapter for its valuable participation and outstanding contribution to the success of the summit. This acknowledgment stands as a testament to IBP QC Chapter's ceaseless endeavors in promoting justice and legal empowerment as cornerstones of sustainable national progress.

Through its active participation in events like the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair, IBP QC Chapter continues to lead by example, demonstrating how collaborative efforts between the legal sector and other institutions can drive meaningful change for the Filipino people.





Legal Aid

NAMES *of our* ACTIVE *and* DEDICATED LEGAL AID VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Quezon City (IBP QC)

Chapter is proud to have a total of **289**

Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers as of December 2024.

Adalem, Miguel Paolo
Alkathiri, Amilyn G.
Almajose, Lilia Aurora A.
Alvario, Mark Anthony
Amazona, Allan
Amor, Maria Auxiliadora Libertine C.
Antalan, Charis S.
Apale, Carl Justine
Atanante, Marcelino Michael IV I.
Balace, Arnulfo
Balonkita, Christa Joan G.
Bautista, Jan Patrick A.
Belgica, Jhee Ann
Belmonte-Lim, Cherrie B.
Besinio, Franco D.
Boquiron, Shiela Mae
Bribon, Christian Benedict T.
Briones, Conrado
Buenaflor, Arbie C.
Caballero, Mary Natalie E.
Calauor, Titus Edison M.
Cantos, Julie Mae Marie P.
Capate, Rowie D.
Cartagena, Philipp King S.
Caseda, Catlicia Joy J.
Castillo, Boenvel M.
Ceñidoza, Marie Cielo E.
Chua, Carmencita M.
Cimatu, Jyrus B.
Constantino, Jeffrey B.
Cualteros IV, Godofredo Jose D.
Cuevas-Corpuz, Rhodora Grace P.
Dalmacio-Visperas, Jocelyn L.
Datig, Jesreel
De Guzman, Jonathan R.
De Guzman, Ronald T.
De Zuzuarregui, Vivian Rose L.

Del Rosario, Olgie Kevin
Dela Chica, Don Johnson
Dela Cruz, Mary Philline
Dignadice, Francis P.
Dimaculangan, Girlie Y.
Domantay, Sri Michi Cordelle V.
Echano, Rosemarie
Encanto-Tagarda, Melissa R.
Fernando, Nikki Luz C.
Festejo, Yvonne G.
Galvez, Ma. Johara G.
Gargantiel, Kristjan Vincent T.
Gonzales, Tristram E.
Gudani, Benjamin
Guevara, Gerald A.
Harrell, Maritess A.
Hipolito, Catherine L.
Ilagan, Rowell D.
Jalotjot, Marianne M.
Jimeno, Antonio Jr. E.
Juayno, Romeo Jr.
Jurado, Ace Randolph V.
Karaan, Oscar D.
Karaan, Mark Oliver
Kho, Wealthie T.
Lacson, Raginnie S.
Lagumbay-Dacillo, Maeryl N.
Laidan, Kristoffer B.
Lasala, Shantee S.
Libuit-Arroyo, Marigold C.
Lumantao, Cecilio C.
Mabasa, Ralph Laurence T.
Macam, Adonis Edgar Angelo
Magbalon, Rhon Russell S.
Magcalas, Arnel T.
Manauis, Arvin Jay M.
Marin, Rey-Ann T.

Masiglat, Mark Kevin M.
Mira, Lee Merck
Montenegro, Rosalinda A.
Obispo, Sophia G.
Palarca, Coryell Teodoro C.
Pasiwen, Joel
Polangcos, Maui F.
Purganan, Anthony J.
Ramirez, Jess Christian D.
Riego, Jofrank D.
Reyes, Antonio Jr.
Reyes, Jeffrey P.
Ripa, Ana Mae
Rondez-Layog, Jerry L.
Rosario, Patricia
Roxas, Cynthia Corazon D.
Sabellano, Cherwyne G.
Salendrez, Kares P.
Salting, Lawrence Angelo V.
Samson, Rafael Abraham
San Jose, Tiara Marie
Sana, Marco Carlo S.
Señeres, Patricio Jr. T.
Sing, Marc Eric W.
Socrates, Tomas Inigo P.
Sta Maria, Iris Jiana
Sy, Wynelaine P.
Tan, Christian Lemuel T.
Tan, Mica Joanna G.
Uy, Severino Jr. P.
Valerio, Noel R.
Villablagon, Johnrey L.
Villaruel, Johnson
Villordon, Kathleen Stacey P.
Yatco, Michael Eric L.
Zulueta, Jose Bismark F.

The names of some volunteer lawyers have not been included in this list due to their current employment in government positions or their preference to maintain anonymity. The Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers included in the list have rendered at least one of the following services:

1. Acting as lead counsel for pro bono case(s) assigned by the IBP QC Legal Aid Clinic.
2. Providing legal advice within the Legal Aid Clinic office.
3. Participating in at least one Legal Aid Caravan.
4. Taking part in at least one jail decongestion activity.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL LITERACY AMONG LEGAL PROFESSIONALS: IBP QC CHAPTER HOLDS THREE KEY WEBINARS *in* 2023

“ *An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.* ”
— Benjamin Franklin

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering professional growth and financial literacy among its members. Recognizing the importance of equipping legal professionals with knowledge of evolving financial systems and tools, IBP QC Chapter organized a series of highly informative webinars via Zoom, focusing on cryptocurrency, blockchain, NFTs, credit management, and financial markets. These events underscored the growing intersection of law and financial technology, enhancing members' capacity to navigate the complexities of financial and digital ecosystems.





Stocks, Bonds, and Crypto; What's the Difference? by *Commissioner Kelvin Lee*

On November 13, 2023, IBP QC Chapter hosted the webinar titled “Stocks, Bonds, and Crypto; What's the Difference?”, featuring Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Commissioner Kelvin Lee as the guest speaker. The session provided a comprehensive overview of the legal and financial frameworks governing stocks, bonds, and cryptocurrencies. Commissioner Lee delved into the fundamental distinctions between

these investment vehicles, exploring their roles in the financial markets and implications for legal practice. The discussion also highlighted emerging regulations and compliance issues, equipping attendees with essential knowledge to advise clients navigating these complex financial instruments. This webinar served as a timely and valuable resource for legal professionals adapting to the rapidly evolving financial landscape.



On June 13, 2024, the webinar “Digital Assets in the Future” explored the dynamic world of cryptocurrency, blockchain technology, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). Attendees gained insights into the transformative potential of digital assets, their implications for financial transactions, intellectual property, and the legal landscape. Expert speakers provided an in-depth exploration of blockchain's decentralized structure, ensuring secure and transparent operations, while the emergence of NFTs redefines asset ownership in digital spaces. Regulatory developments and risk management were also discussed, emphasizing the need for compliance among legal practitioners handling these cutting-edge technologies.



Know Your Credit with *Atty. Ben Joshua A. Baltazar*

Earlier, on June 19, 2023, the webinar “Know Your Credit” focused on the significance of credit information in personal and business finance. With Atty. Ben Joshua A. Baltazar, President and CEO of the Credit Information Corporation (CIC), as the resource speaker, participants explored the role of credit reports in accessing loans, managing debts, and fostering financial health.

These webinars exemplify IBP QC Chapter's proactive approach in providing its members with knowledge that extends beyond traditional legal education. By engaging experts in financial technology, credit management,

and market regulation, the chapter ensures its members are well-prepared to address emerging challenges and opportunities. The initiatives also highlight IBP QC Chapter's dedication to empowering lawyers with the tools needed to offer informed guidance to clients, ensuring they remain competitive in an ever evolving legal and financial environment.

Through these enriching discussions, IBP QC Chapter reaffirms its role as a leader in integrating interdisciplinary knowledge into the practice of law, paving the way for a more financially literate and technologically adept legal community.



SPORTS *and* DEVELOPMENT

“Sports do not build character. They reveal it.”

– Heywood Broun

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter has been dedicated to fostering the holistic development of its members through sports and recreational activities. In 2023 and 2024, the chapter successfully organized several events that not only promoted physical fitness but also strengthened camaraderie and collaboration among legal professionals.



One of the key highlights was the Football Kick-off Tournament, held on May 26, 2023, at the Valle Verde Clubhouse. This friendly tournament, which took place from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, provided IBP QC Chapter members with an opportunity to bond through friendly competition. With teams formed from within the chapter, the event emphasized teamwork, sportsmanship, and a break from the usual legal routines, fostering stronger interpersonal connections among the members.

In addition, the chapter played a key role in the Greater Manila Region Governor's Cup Tournament on May 13, 2023, at the prestigious Club Intramuros Golf Course. This event was a celebration of both athleticism and professional networking, as IBP QC Chapter members from across the region participated in a highly competitive yet enjoyable golf tournament. It was an excellent opportunity for members to engage in friendly competition while strengthening professional relationships within the legal community.

IBP GREATER MANILA REGION GOVERNOR'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT:

A Celebration of Sportsmanship *and* Camaraderie



The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Greater Manila Region (GMR) Governor's Cup Golf Tournament, held on May 12, 2023, at the prestigious Club Intramuros Golf Course, proved to be an exciting and memorable event that brought together legal professionals from across the region. This annual sporting event is a testament to the importance of balancing the demanding nature of the legal profession with a commitment to wellness, teamwork, and fostering meaningful connections.

The tournament, organized by the IBP-GMR, attracted a diverse group of participants, primarily composed of lawyers from various IBP chapters in Metro Manila. Among the participants were several distinguished members of the IBP Quezon City Chapter, who actively competed, demonstrating not only their golfing skills but also their dedication to building camaraderie within the legal community. The event provided an opportunity for legal professionals to engage in friendly competition while strengthening their bonds, promoting a sense of unity beyond the courtroom.

The event's relaxed yet competitive atmosphere encouraged participants to engage in conversations, share experiences, and even forge new partnerships. The mix of both seasoned golfers and novices

created an environment where sportsmanship was celebrated, and the spirit of friendly rivalry was embraced. Through the event, participants were able to network and collaborate, promoting mutual respect and understanding among colleagues. In a profession often characterized by intense schedules and high-pressure environments, the tournament was a welcome reminder of the value of leisure activities that allow for both personal enjoyment and professional connection.

Beyond the sporting aspect, the tournament was a celebration of the IBP's commitment to promoting holistic development within the legal profession. The event allowed members to participate in an enjoyable,

non-work-related activity, which is vital for overall well-being. This commitment to fostering wellness and unity is essential for ensuring a positive and supportive environment for lawyers in their professional and personal lives.

In conclusion, the IBP Greater Manila Region Governor's Cup Golf Tournament exemplified the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and camaraderie that IBP Quezon City chapter members and their fellow participants uphold. The event was a great success, serving as a reminder that in the legal profession, it is just as important to build strong relationships as it is to develop professional expertise.

KICK-STARTING CAMARADERIE:

The 2023 IBP QC Chapter Football Kick-off Tournament

On May 26, 2023, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter hosted a highly anticipated Football Kick-off Tournament for its members at the Valle Verde Clubhouse. The friendly tournament, held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, was designed to bring together legal professionals from the chapter in a unique and engaging setting, fostering camaraderie, teamwork, and sportsmanship outside the typical courtroom or office environment.

The event marked a significant occasion as it not only promoted physical fitness but also encouraged the development of positive relationships among IBP QC Chapter members. As lawyers, judges, and legal professionals often face stressful and demanding workdays, the Football Kick-off Tournament served as an excellent opportunity for them to unwind, showcase their athleticism, and bond with colleagues in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The friendly competition offered a break from their busy schedules while reinforcing the importance of teamwork, discipline, and fair play—qualities essential to both the legal profession and sports.

The venue at Valle Verde Clubhouse offered a fantastic setting for the event, with its well-maintained football field and comfortable facilities ensuring a great experience for all participants. It was evident that the IBP QC Chapter had gone to great lengths to create a welcoming and supportive environment for the event, ensuring that both experienced players and beginners felt equally included and encouraged.



At the end of the evening, the focus shifted from competition to celebration, with participants applauding the efforts and sportsmanship of all teams involved. The Football Kick-off Tournament was a remarkable success, demonstrating how sports can bring people together, regardless of their professional backgrounds.

IBP QC CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S GOLF CUP TOURNAMENT:

Lawyers Tee Off *for a Worthy Cause*

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter held its much anticipated President's Golf Cup Tournament on Friday, February 16, 2024, at the scenic Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club.

This unique event brought together legal professionals, golf enthusiasts, and community leaders for a day of friendly competition and meaningful advocacy. Beyond the greens and fairways, the tournament served as a powerful platform to promote camaraderie within the legal community while championing IBP QC Chapter's commitment to providing vital legal aid services to underserved sectors of society.

Central to the tournament's mission was its role as a fundraiser for IBP QC Chapter's legal aid projects. Proceeds from the event will directly support the chapter's initiatives, which include free legal consultations, representation for indigent clients, and outreach programs addressing the legal needs of marginalized communities. In this way, each swing of the club symbolized a step toward justice and empowerment for those who often lack access to legal resources.

The President's Golf Cup Tournament underscores IBP QC Chapter's innovative approach to merging professional engagement with community service. It was not only a celebration of athleticism and sportsmanship but also a testament to the legal community's unwavering dedication to uplifting the lives of those in need.



MEMBERSHIP *and* SOCIALS



FESTIVE CHEER *and* UNITY:

IBP QC Chapter Christmas Party 2023

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter's Christmas Party on December 6, 2023, held at the ICON Ballroom, Celebrity Sports Plaza, was a spectacular evening filled with festive cheer and camaraderie. Attendees embraced the holiday spirit by donning their most creative and vibrant Christmas-themed outfits, transforming the venue into a sea of glittering reds, greens, and golds.

The night kicked off with a warm welcoming speech from IBP QC Chapter President Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda, followed by a scrumptious buffet dinner and live music performances that set a joyful tone for the celebration. The event also included heartfelt speeches from the IBP QC Chapter Board of Officers as they looked back on the accomplishments of the past year and expressed gratitude for the support of the IBP QC Chapter community.

Guests enjoyed a variety of exciting games and challenges, with participants showcasing their creativity, wit, and competitive spirit. Adding to the excitement were the raffle draws, which offered an array of thrilling prizes that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

Culminating in a lively dance floor that drew attendees of all ages, this Christmas Party proved to be not just a celebration of the season but also a testament to the strong bonds within the IBP QC Chapter family. It was truly an unforgettable evening of joy, unity, and holiday magic.



AN AUSPICIOUS NIGHT *of* CELEBRATION *and* HOLIDAY SPLENDOR: IBP QC Chapter Christmas Party 2024

On December 9, 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter hosted its much anticipated annual Christmas Party at the ICON Ballroom of the Celebrity Club, Quezon City. Themed around Chinese culture, the event invited guests to come in their most festive Chinese-inspired attire, creating a vibrant display of elegance and creativity.

“IBP QC Chapter is always two steps ahead,” IBP QC Chapter President Melissa R. Encanto-Tagarda quipped during her inspiring opening remarks that set the tone for the entire evening, toasting the chapter’s milestones and emphasized the importance of unity and service within the legal community. “Habang Maligayang Pasko pa lang ang iba, Kung Hei Fat Choy na kami.” On that same note, Public Relations Officer Atty. Rowell D. Ilagan followed with an engaging presentation of the chapter’s remarkable accomplishments over the past two years, while offering a sneak preview of the exciting initiatives the board has planned for 2025.

One of the highlights of the night was the recognition of IBP QC Chapter’s dedicated Legal Aid volunteer lawyers. Led by Legal Aid Committee Chairperson Atty. Jeffrey B. Constantino and Legal Aid Clinic Head Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, the segment celebrated the tireless efforts of these legal professionals. Honoraria were distributed as tokens of appreciation, along with a rousing call to action encouraging more members to join the IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Volunteer Corps and contribute to meaningful change in the community.

The night’s festivities continued with thrilling games and activities, giving attendees the chance to showcase their creativity and competitive spirit. The “Best Dressed Pañero and Pañera” contest celebrated the guests who best embodied the theme, with winners taking home exciting prizes.



Adding to the excitement was the much anticipated raffle draw, where IBP QC Chapter Treasurer Atty. Cherrie B. Belmonte-Lim and Executive Committee Member Atty. Cynthia G. Roxas announced winners of various coveted items, including the grand prize—a state-of-the-art Ogawa massage chair that left the crowd in awe.

The party culminated with a lively dance floor, as guests grooved to a mix of timeless

classics and contemporary hits performed by a live band. The festive atmosphere and camaraderie among members ensured that no one left empty-handed, whether it was with a prize, an unforgettable memory, or both.

The IBP QC Chapter Christmas Party 2024 was not just a celebration of the holiday season, but also a testament to the unity, dedication, and joyful spirit of the IBP QC Chapter family—a night to cherish and remember.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE:

IBP QC Chapter's Testimonial Dinner *for* New Lawyers in 2023

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter hosted a memorable Testimonial Dinner for the 2022 Bar Passers on May 13, 2023, at the prestigious Diamond Hotel Manila. This special event was a testament to the IBP QC Chapter's unwavering commitment to supporting and celebrating the achievements of new lawyers in the legal community.

The dinner served as a platform for welcoming the 2022 Bar passers into the professional fold, offering them a moment to reflect on their accomplishments and the journey ahead. Attended by distinguished members of the legal profession, including judges, legal luminaries, and senior IBP QC Chapter officials, the event was an inspiring occasion that highlighted the significance of integrity, excellence, and service to the community—values that the IBP QC Chapter upholds.

During the evening, the new lawyers were given the opportunity to share their experiences, express their gratitude, and set their sights on the future of their legal careers. The event not only celebrated their hard-earned success but

also reaffirmed the collective role of the legal community in mentoring and guiding the next generation of lawyers.

The Testimonial Dinner further served as an avenue for fostering stronger ties among members, providing an opportunity for networking and camaraderie among legal professionals. Through this event, the IBP QC Chapter reaffirmed its dedication to nurturing the professional growth of young lawyers, helping them navigate their paths as they embark on their careers in law, advocacy, and public service. The evening was a fitting tribute to the resilience and determination of the 2022 Bar passers, symbolizing their bright futures in the legal profession.



EMPOWERING LEGAL EXCELLENCE:

IBP QC Chapter Partners *with*
Nike *for* Exclusive Member Perks

In 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter launched an exciting collaboration with Park Access, the official partner of Nike Stores in the Philippines. This initiative proudly reflects the chapter's commitment to delivering meaningful perks for its members, fostering a sense of community, and encouraging engagement through partnerships with reputable global brands.



As part of this strategic partnership, IBP QC Chapter members enjoyed exclusive access to substantial discounts on select Nike merchandise at participating Nike Stores operated by Green Tee Inc. The first offering took place from September 21 to 30, 2024, giving members the opportunity to enjoy discounts ahead of the busy holiday season. The partnership extended into a second promotional period from November 15 to December 15, 2024, during which members availed themselves of a 50% discount on selected regular Nike items. Additionally, purchases exceeding PHP 10,000 qualified for an extra 10% discount, making it a perfect opportunity for members to stock up on high quality sportswear and accessories.

This collaboration was conceived by the IBP QC Chapter Board of Officers, who have consistently sought innovative ways to engage members and foster loyalty. Recognizing the growing importance of lifestyle benefits to the legal community, the Board strategically partnered with Park Access to provide members with exclusive privileges that aligned with their professional and personal aspirations. Nike, being a globally recognized and trusted brand, embodies excellence and performance—values that strongly resonates with IBP QC Chapter's mission of upholding the highest standards of legal service and professionalism.

By aligning with Nike through Park Access, IBP QC Chapter demonstrated its dedication to enhancing the membership experience. In striving to cultivate relationships with reputable brands, IBP QC Chapter added value to its membership while highlighting the benefits of being part of a vibrant, dynamic organization. This collaboration serves as a shining example of the chapter's efforts to innovate and deliver impactful programs and partnerships.



BUILDING BONDS, STRENGTHENING UNITY:

How the IBP QC Chapter's Fellowship Nights Foster a Culture of Friendly Collaboration Among its Lawyers

The Fellowship Nights of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC Chapter) have become an essential platform for fostering unity and camaraderie among its members, and a key driver behind their success is the dedicated efforts of the IBP QC Chapter Board of Officers. Recognizing the importance of building strong connections within the legal community, the Board of Officers has made it a priority to organize these events regularly in 2024, ensuring that they remain an integral part of the chapter's activities.



These Fellowship Nights serve as a space for IBP QC Chapter members to come together in a more relaxed and informal setting, away from the demands of their legal practice. By prioritizing these events, the Board of Officers creates opportunities for members to network, share experiences, and build relationships that extend beyond their professional roles. Through their continuous efforts, the Board ensures that each gathering offers a balance of social interaction, personal growth, and professional enrichment.

Through their tireless dedication, the IBP QC Board of Officers has transformed Fellowship Nights into a cornerstone of the chapter's culture, promoting unity and providing a platform for professional and personal growth. By striving to make these events a regular affair, they ensure that IBP QC Chapter members remain connected, inspired, and supported in their shared mission to uphold the integrity of the legal profession.



INTEGRATED BAR *of* THE PHILIPPINES QUEZON CITY (IBP QC) CHAPTER GENDER *and* DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES *for* 2024

“ Justice is not just about sentencing or verdicts; it’s about building systems where equality is a given, not a goal. ”

– Michelle Obama



*Celebration
of Women's
Month*

Celebration of Women's Month

In 2024, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City (IBP QC) Chapter reaffirmed its dedication to promoting gender equality and empowering women through various Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives. These initiatives, particularly those held in celebration of Women's Month, showcased the chapter's commitment to acknowledging the pivotal role of women in the legal profession and society at large while promoting inclusivity, self-care, and well-being.



Self-Care Giveaways for Court Employees (March 15, 2024)

Recognizing the tireless efforts of court employees, many of whom are women, the IBP QC Chapter distributed self-care kits containing high-quality face masks on March 15, 2024. This thoughtful gesture aimed to highlight the importance of self-care and stress management among court personnel who are vital to the efficient delivery of justice.



Giveaways for Women Judges and Prosecutors (March 12-14, 2024)

To honor the invaluable contributions of women in the judiciary and prosecution, IBP QC Chapter organized a series of giveaways from March 12 to 14, 2024. Women judges and prosecutors received specially curated tokens of appreciation, underscoring the chapter's admiration for their leadership, resilience, and dedication to upholding justice.



Free Coffee and Pandesal for Women's Month (March 8 and 15, 2024)

As part of its Women's Month activities, IBP QC Chapter treated women legal professionals and court employees to free coffee and pandesal on March 8 and 15, 2024. This warm and inviting gesture was designed to foster camaraderie, celebrate the achievements of women in the legal field, and provide a moment of relaxation amidst their busy schedules.

VALENTINE'S DAY GIVEAWAYS

(Perfume and Chocolates)



In February 2024, IBP QC Chapter kicked off its Gender and Development initiatives with a heartfelt Valentine's Day gesture. Women members of the chapter and court personnel received perfume and chocolates, symbolizing appreciation and care. This initiative emphasized the importance of building a supportive and inclusive environment within the legal community, while also recognizing women's contributions across all aspects of the profession.



These activities form part of IBP QC Chapter's broader Gender and Development agenda, which seeks to promote gender equality, provide meaningful support to women in the legal profession, and raise awareness about the importance of self-care and wellness. By celebrating the achievements of women and fostering an inclusive community, the chapter continues to uphold its mission of advancing justice, equality, and the well-being of its members and stakeholders.



BABAE RISING:

Promoting Gender Equality and Justice Through Legal Education



On August 31, 2024, the Bagong Henerasyon (BH) Center in Barangay San Antonio, Quezon City, became a venue of empowerment as Atty. Kathleen Stacey P. Villordon, Secretary of the IBP Quezon City Chapter, delivered an insightful lecture titled “Babae Rising Against Abuse and Violent Encounters.” This event, organized at the invitation of Barangay San Antonio and the Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte, aimed to equip both residents and local officials with vital legal knowledge to better protect and support survivors of

Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

Atty. Villordon’s lecture highlighted the pressing issues surrounding abuse and violence within the community, offering a comprehensive discussion on the rights of women and children as enshrined in Philippine law. With clarity and compassion, she shed light on Republic Act No. 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, emphasizing the role of barangays as the first responders in protecting victims and providing legal recourse.

Through real-life examples and practical guidance, Atty. Villordon underscored the importance of awareness and proactive community action. She encouraged barangay officials to strengthen their VAWC desks and shared best practices for handling cases with sensitivity and urgency. Her message resonated deeply with the audience, many of whom left the session with a renewed commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of VAWC survivors.

Following the lecture, the IBP Quezon City Chapter further demonstrated its dedication to community service. Led by IBP QC Chapter Legal Aid Clinic Head Atty. Marie Cielo E. Ceñidoza, a team of volunteer lawyers provided free legal consultations to residents in need. This initiative addressed various concerns, from domestic disputes to financial issues, empowering individuals with the legal tools necessary to navigate challenges.

The success of this event underscores the crucial role of legal education and outreach in fostering a safer and more just society. By bringing legal expertise directly to the community, Atty. Villordon and the IBP Quezon City Chapter reaffirmed their commitment to the advocacy of justice and the protection of vulnerable sectors. Events like these inspire hope and solidarity, proving that meaningful change begins at the grassroots level.



Integrated Bar of the Philippines Quezon City Chapter

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