

**MESSAGE OF IBP NATIONAL PRESIDENT DOMINGO EGON Q. CAYOSA
AT THE 4TH ANNUAL ALB PHILIPPINE LAW AWARDS
Nov. 22, 2019 · Makati Shangri-La, Manila**

We honor and recognize tonight some of the exemplary lawyers and law firms of our country. We celebrate the success of the distinguished awardees and we congratulate them for their well-deserved compliments.

The IBP commends the organizers and the supporting organizations of the Philippine Law Awards for affirming the good and the outstanding in the legal profession. My presence tonight reaffirms the constructive cooperation of IBP with Thomson Reuters and its publication, the Asian Legal Business and with all their supporting organizations. We look forward to a continuing collaboration with you and anyone who shares our advocacy to tell the story of the good Filipino Lawyer.

Though lawyers hold so many important and powerful positions in government and in the private sector and they are indispensable in an organized and civilized society, media usually highlights the negative about the legal profession. It is therefore imperative for us to correct the misperception and feature the infinitely more lawyers who are doing their job well and contributing immensely not only to the advancement of the legal profession but in nation-building as well. Let us promote the narrative of the good Filipino Lawyer.

We note that Thomson Reuters is active all over Asia and that it is the oldest and longest-running award-giving institution in our Region. We are thankful that it started the Philippine Law Awards four years ago and we know that such awards have inspired quite a number of our legal eagles and luminaries. The coming of international organizations like Thomson Reuters to the Philippines is a boost to IBP's program of promoting the Global Filipino Lawyer. As the IBP leadership builds avenues of cooperation and collaboration with foreign bar associations and institutions, the Filipino lawyer should be alerted and exposed to international standards, trends, technology, and best practices so that he may excel in an increasingly globalized legal profession.

I am particularly pleased that this year, the two leading ADR institutions in our country, the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Incorporated (PDRCI) and the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb) are supporting organizations. The IBP, under our watch and in the years to come will intensify its support and campaign for ADR as a necessary and viable alternative to our notoriously slow justice processes. Even as IBP will continue to advocate for and support government reforms to deliver justice much faster, we will put a lot of resources in ADR as a proactive measure to do *"Justice Bilis not Justice Tiis."*

We sadly know that to a large extent, justice in our country is delayed, hence justice is denied to not a few of our people. Delay in justice processes breeds corruption and undue influence. It seriously erodes the trust of our people to the extent that they become indifferent to terrible extrajudicial methods of resolving differences. Everyone loses in delay. We cannot and should not tolerate such a sad state.

May I therefore call upon the awardees this evening and upon every Filipino lawyer to join us in our mission to do MORE, BETTER, and FASTER at IBP and in the legal profession. I challenge you to honor and make real the accolades bestowed upon you by making a big and positive difference in bringing justice much much faster to our countrymen. Peace is the fruit of justice. Let us all work for peace through timely justice so that we may, at the end of a fruitful life, be called "children of God". Let our profession be our prayer.

Thank you for your kind attention. God bless the Filipino lawyer.