



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 67 -2007

TO : ALL CLERKS OF COURT/OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

SUBJECT : EXEMPTION OF THE INDIGENT CLIENTS OF THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO) FROM THE PAYMENT OF DOCKET AND OTHER FEES

Quoted hereunder for the information and guidance of all concerned are the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9406 entitled "AN ACT REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987', AS AMENDED, GRANTING SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO PAO OFFICIALS AND LAWYERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR," which took effect on April 15, 2007, to wit:

"SEC.2. Section 14 xxx is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'SEC. 14. **Public Attorney's Office (PAO).** - xxx xxx xxx

"The PAO shall be the principal law office of the Government in extending free legal assistance to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative and other quasi-judicial cases." (Emphasis underlined)

xxx xxx xxx

SEC.6. New sections xxx

xxx xxx xxx

"SEC.16.D. **Exemption from Fees and Costs of the Suit.** - The clients of the PAO shall be exempt from payment of docket and other fees incidental to instituting an action in court and other quasi-judicial bodies, as an original proceeding or on appeal.

The costs of the suit, attorney's fees and contingent fees imposed upon the adversary of the PAO

clients after a successful litigation shall be deposited in the National Treasury as trust fund and shall be disbursed for special allowances of authorized officials and lawyers of the PAO." (Emphasis underlined)

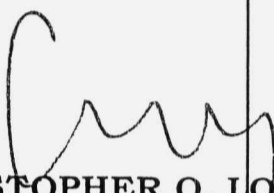
However, the entitlement to the exemption from the payment of docket and other fees shall be subject to the conditions prescribed under Section 19, Rule 141 of the Revised Rules of Court.

Thus, the indigent client of PAO shall execute an affidavit stating (a) that his gross income and that of his immediate family do not exceed an amount double the monthly minimum wage of an employee; and (b) that the indigent client does not own real property with a fair market value, as stated in the appended current tax declaration, of more than three hundred thousand (P300,000.00) pesos.

The affidavit of the indigent client shall be supported by an affidavit of a disinterested person attesting to the truth of the former.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.

July 12, 2007.



CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Court Administrator