

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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 92-2019

TO

THE COURT OF APPEALS, SANDIGANBAYAN, COURT OF TAX APPEALS, REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS. **SHARI'A** DISTRICT COURTS. METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, **MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT** COURTS, SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR, **PUBLIC** ATTORNEY'S **OFFICE** AND THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT:

SUSPENSION OF ATTY. GRACE C. BURI FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW FOR TWO (2) YEARS

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Decision dated 4 December 2018 of the Court *En Banc* in Administrative Case No. 12296, entitled "Pia Marie B. Go vs. Atty. Grace C. Buri," to wit:

WHEREFORE, respondent Atty. Grace C. Buri is found guilty of violating Rule 1.01 of Canon 1, Canon 15, Rules 16.01 and 16.03 of Canon 16, and Rule 18.03 of Canon 18 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Accordingly, she is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years, effective immediately upon her receipt of this Decision. She is STERNLY WARNED that a repetition of the same or similar acts will be dealt with more severely. She is likewise ORDERED to pay a fine in the amount of ₽5,000.00 for failure to comply with the directives of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Commission on Bar Discipline.

Further, respondent is ORDERED to return to complainant Pia Marie B. Go the legal fees she received from the latter in the aggregate amount of ₽188,000.00 within ninety (90) days from the finality of this Decision. Failure to comply with this directive will warrant the imposition of a more severe penalty.

Finally, she is DIRECTED to report to this Court the date of her receipt of this Decision to enable it to

determine when her suspension from the practice of law shall take effect.

Let copies of this Decision be furnished to: (1) the Office of the Bar Confidant to be appended to respondent's personal record as an attorney; (2) the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for its information and guidance; and (3) the Office of the Court Administrator for circulation to all courts in the country.

<u>21</u> June 2019

RAUK BAUTISTA VILLANUEVA
Deputy Court Administrator

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Office of the Court Administrator
(Per SC Office Order No. 10-2019 dated 13 June 2019)

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