



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 161-2018

TO : ALL JUDGES AND CLERKS OF COURT
OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL
COURTS

SUBJECT : *IPSO FACTO* REVOCATION OF THE
AUTHORITY OF THE DESIGNATED
ASSISTING JUDGE TO HEAR AND DECIDE
INHIBITED CASES PENDING IN THE COURT
UPON THE DESIGNATION OF AN ACTING
PRESIDING JUDGE OR ASSUMPTION OF
DUTY OF THE NEWLY-APPOINTED
PRESIDING JUDGE, WITH EXCEPTIONS

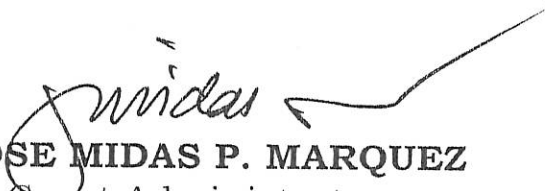
In accordance with the 4 April 2018 Resolution of the Court *En Banc*, directing the Office of the Court Administrator to issue a policy guideline that the authority of the designated assisting judge to hear and decide inhibited cases pending in the court is *ipso facto* revoked once there is a designation of an acting presiding judge or assumption to duty of the newly-appointed presiding judge without further need of a Court resolution, all concerned are accordingly **DIRECTED** to **OBSERVE** and **IMPLEMENT** the following:

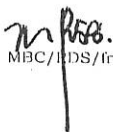
The authority of an assisting judge to hear and decide inhibited cases pending in the court where he/she is designated is *ipso facto* revoked upon the designation of an acting presiding judge or assumption of duty of the newly-appointed presiding judge without further need of a Court resolution except when: a) the inhibited case has already been submitted for decision or is already past the trial stage, i.e., where all the parties have finished presenting their evidence prior to the designation of an acting presiding judge or appointment of the regular presiding judge, in which case, the designated assisting judge shall decide/resolve the case in

accordance with the guidelines provided for in A.M. No. 04-5-19-SC (*Resolution Providing Guidelines in the Inventory and Adjudication of Cases Assigned to Judges Who are Promoted or Transferred to Other Branches in the Same Court Level of the Judicial Hierarchy*); or (b) there is a ground for the acting/presiding judge to inhibit from the case.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.

26 July 2018


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator



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