



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 168-2019

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

SUBJECT : SUSPENSION OF ATTY. JONATHAN T. SEMPIO FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW FOR TWO (2) YEARS

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Decision dated 26 March 2019 of the Court *En Banc* in Administrative Case No. 12423, entitled "Alfredo San Gabriel vs. Atty. Jonathan T. Sempio," to wit:

WHEREFORE, respondent Atty. Jonathan T. Sempio (respondent) is found guilty of violating Canons 15, 17, 18, and Rule 18.03 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Accordingly, he is hereby **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years, effective immediately upon his receipt of this Decision. He is **STERNLY WARNED** that a repetition of the same or similar acts will be dealt with more severely.

Further, respondent is **ORDERED** to return to complainant Alfredo San Gabriel within ten (10) days from receipt of this Decision, part of the legal fees he received from the latter in the amount of ₱100,000.00, which shall earn legal interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum from his receipt of this Decision until full payment. Respondent shall submit to the Court proof of restitution within ten (10) days from payment. Failure to comply with this directive shall warrant the imposition of a more severe penalty.

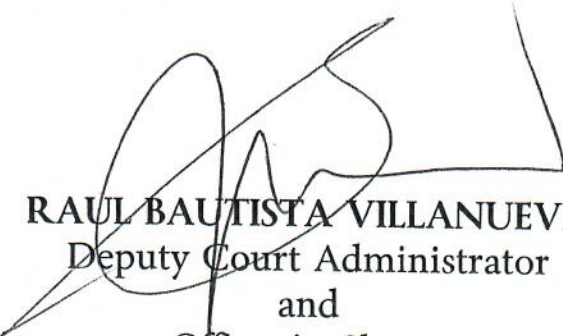
Finally, respondent is **DIRECTED** to report to this Court the date of his receipt of this Decision to enable it

to determine when his 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.


Respondent received a copy of the aforesaid Decision on 23 July 2019.

27 September 2019



RAUL BAUTISTA VILLANUEVA
Deputy Court Administrator
and

Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Court Administrator
(Per Office Order No. 13-2019 dated 20 September 2019)


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