



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 169-2023

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

SUBJECT : DISBARMENT OF ATTY. SOCRATES R. RIVERA

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Decision dated 06 October 2020 of the Court *En Banc* in A.C. No. 9114, entitled "Jose R. Reyes, Jr. vs. Atty. Socrates R. Rivera," to wit:

WHEREFORE, Atty. Socrates R. Rivera is found GUILTY of violating Rule 1.01, Canon 1 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Accordingly, he is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law and his name is ordered stricken off from the Roll of Attorneys, effective immediately.

Further, Atty. Socrates R. Rivera is ORDERED to return to complainant Jose R. Reyes, Jr. within ten (10) days from receipt of this Decision 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.

Let a copy of this Decision be furnished to the Office of the Bar Confidant to be entered into Atty. Socrates R. Rivera's records. Copies of this Decision shall likewise be furnished the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Office of the Court Administrator for circulation to all courts throughout the country for their information and guidance.

In a Resolution dated 15 June 2021, the Court CONSIDERED as SERVED the Notice of Judgment (with copy of the Decision dated 06 October 2020) addressed to respondent

Rivera at Rivera, Rivera and Associates, which Notice of Judgment was returned unserved with notation on the Return of Service 'Returned-Moved Out (no forwarding address).'

26 April 2023



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator

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