



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

**OCA CIRCULAR NO. 243-2023**

**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 : PROHIBITION FROM BEING COMMISSIONED AS A NOTARY PUBLIC FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS AND REVOCATION OF A NOTARIAL COMMISSION OF ATTY. JOSEPH U. BERNALDEZ**

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Resolution dated 28 March 2022 of the Court (Second Division) in A.C. No. 8993, titled "**Spouses Arturo A. Villegas and Erlinda Q. Villegas vs. Atty. Joseph U. Bernaldez,**" to wit:

The Court **RESOLVES** to **ADOPT** and **APPROVE** the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in the attached Resolutions dated August 10, 2014<sup>1</sup> and November 29, 2016.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the Court hereby **PROHIBITS** respondent Atty. Joseph U. Bernaldez (respondent) from being commissioned as notary public for a period of two (2) years; and **REVOKES** his incumbent commission as notary public, if any. He is **STERNLY WARNED** that a repetition of the same or similar acts in the future shall be dealt with more severely.

The prohibition from being commissioned as notary public and the revocation of his Notarial commission, if any, shall take effect immediately upon receipt of this Resolution by respondent. He is

<sup>1</sup> Rollo, pp. 88-89. Signed by National Secretary Nasser A. Marohomsalic.

<sup>2</sup> Id. at 86-87. Signed by Secretary for the Meeting Avelino V. Sales, Jr.

**DIRECTED** to immediately file a Manifestation to the Court that his penalty has started, copy furnished all courts and quasi-judicial bodies where he has entered his appearance as counsel.

Let copies of this Resolution 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.

In a Resolution dated 13 March 2023, acting on the respondent's motion for reconsideration (with prayer to hold in abeyance the implementation of revocation order) of the Resolution dated 28 March 2022, the Court **DENIED** the motion with **FINALITY** for lack of substantial merit, and **DENIED** the prayer for lack of merit.

29 June 2023



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA  
Court Administrator