



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 18-2024

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 : LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW OF ATTY. ALBERT N. LAVANDERO

In its Decision dated 14 March 2022 in A.M. No. 2017-07-SC and A.C. No. 12323, titled *"Presiding Judge Suzanne D. Cobarrubias-Nabaza, Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 93, Marikina City vs. Atty. Albert N. Lavandero, Court Attorney IV, Legal Office, Office of the Court Administrator,"* the Court (Second Division), ruled as follows: 1. In A.M. No. 2017-07-SC, respondent Atty. Albert N. Lavandero is found **GUILTY** of Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service, which is mitigated by the circumstances of outstanding performance ratings in the last rating periods and first offense. Accordingly, he is meted with a penalty of a **FINE** in the amount of ₱90,000.00; and 2. In A.C. No. 12323, respondent Atty. Albert N. Lavandero is found **GUILTY** of violating Rule 1.01, Canon 1; Rules 10.01 and 10.03, Canon 10; and Rule 12.04, Canon 12 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Accordingly, he is **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year, effective immediately upon his receipt of this Decision, with a **STERN WARNING** that a repetition of the same or similar acts in the future shall be dealt with more severely.

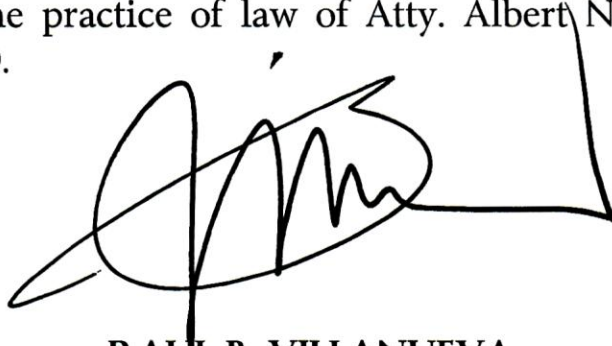
The Office of the Bar Confidant, in its 1st Indorsement dated 05 January 2024, furnished the Office of the Court Administrator a copy of the Manifestation with Urgent Motion to Lift Order of One (1) Year Suspension in A.C. No. 12323 and

Supplemental Sworn Statement of Service of Suspension dated 02 October 2023 in A.C. No. 12323 filed by Atty. Lavandero.

Pursuant to the guidelines outlined by the Court in its Decision dated 10 January 2023 in A.C. No. 11032, titled "*Re: Order dated 01 October 2015 in Criminal Case No. 15-318727-34, Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 49, Manila, against Atty. Severo L. Brillantes*" governing the lifting of the penalty of suspension imposed against members of the Bar, the order of suspension shall be automatically lifted upon submission by the respondent lawyer of such Sworn Statement that he or she has completed the service of suspension.¹

Accordingly, insofar as the Court's Decision dated 14 March 2022 in A.C. No. 12323 is concerned, the therein imposed suspension from the practice of law of Atty. Albert N. Lavandero is deemed **LIFTED**.

16 January 2024



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator

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¹ Item 6, OCA Circular No. 84-2023 dated 27 February 2023 (*Requirements on Lifting of the Penalty of Suspension Imposed Against Members of the Bar*).