

OCA CIRCULAR NO. <u>128-202</u>4

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

SUBJECT : DISBARMENT OF ATTY. ALBERT VILLASECA

For information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Decision dated 25 April 2023 of the Court *En Banc* in A.C. No. 11227, titled "Mercedita V. Cuenca versus Atty. Albert Villaseca," to wit:

ACCORDINGLY, Atty. Albert Villaseca is found GUILTY of violations of Canons 1, 15, 16, 17, and 18, and Rules 1.01, 15.06, 15.07, 16.01, 18.03, and 18.04 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. He is DISBARRED from the practice of law and his name is ORDERED STRICKEN OFF from the Roll of Attorneys, effective immediately. He is similarly meted a FINE in the amount of PHP 10,000.00 for his disobedience to the orders of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Atty. Albert Villaseca is further ORDERED to RETURN to Mercedita V. Cuenca the amount of PHP 604,000.00 with 6% interest per annum from the finality of this Decision until full payment. He shall submit to the Court the proof of restitution within ten (10) days from payment. Failure to comply with this directive shall warrant the imposition of a more severe penalty.

Let a copy of this Decision be furnished the Office of the Bar Confidant and attached to Atty. Villaseca's personal record. Furnish a copy of this Decision to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for its information and guidance; and the Office of the Court Administrator for dissemination to all courts of the Philippines.

This Decision takes effect immediately.

<u>29</u> April 2024

VILLANUEVA ourt Administrator

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