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Guess what question the Gazette Staff is answering. Email your answers to auslgazette@gmail.com or add us on Twitter (@AUSLgazette) and tweet us your answer. Both the right and funny answers will be featured next issue.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

You All Ready

It is November.

The once sleepy month for law students is now probably the busiest with the move of the Bar Examinations schedule from September to November.

Several other changes, in fact, are happening in the Bar Exams this year - most significant of which is the full implementation of the Multiple-Choice Type of Questions in all subjects. It will also be the first time that the Exams will be held at the University of Santo Tomas after several years of being hosted by De La Salle University.

Despite all these developments, one thing remains – the Bar Examinations will be tough for those who did not study enough.

Atty. Maria Zarah R. Villanueva Castro, Commercial Law Review Lecturer and our featured Professor in this Bar Examinations special of The Gazette, said the most important thing in law school and in taking the bar Exam is preparation.

Asked what she would do if she is to take the Bar Exam today, Atty. Zarah said: "Extensive reading because the scope of one MQO is broader it can cover two or more cases."

Preparedness does not only involve the aspect of studies though. Three barricers we have interviewed - Darwin, Teresa, and Darlene - know so well they also need to be ready emotionally, physically, and financially.

Surely there is so much pressure. We have heard countless stories about the Bar Exams throughout the years we spent in law school. Some can inspire; some can sow fear. Some led to success; some caused failure. Some become legendary; some are retold simply because they serve as fun fillers during class lectures.

What all these imply is that the Bar Exams can bring out the best and the worst in us. How far our best could take us or how low our worst could drag us down will determine our fate.

What far our best could take us or how low our worst could drag us down will determine our fate.

The good news is we can take control and we can rely on a strong support system to help us through. They are our families and friends, classmates and professors, administrators, and devoted organizations such as the Student Council and the Bar Operations Committee.

We hope that The Gazette, through this Special Issue, is also able to contribute something to help each and every AUSL barrister be truly prepared for the great challenge ahead.

Go Chiefs. Make us proud.

Go Chiefs. Make us proud.
LEB CITES AUSL AS OUTSTANDING LAW SCHOOL

By John Paul Galang

The honors just keep rolling in. The Legal Education Board (LEB) is set to present Arellano University School of Law (AUSL) with an Award for Outstanding Law School being among the Top 10 Best Performing Law Schools in the Bar Examinations of the past 10 years.

The award, which came on the heel of two Arellanistas bagging 3rd and 10th places in the 2010 Bar Exams, will be conferred on November 11 at the Manila Pavilion during the 2nd Anniversary Celebration of the LEB.

AUSL registered a passing percentage of 42.90% in the last 10 years (2001-2010) to place 7th in the Top 10 list based on the official records of the Office of the Bar Confidant.

Dean Jose R. Sundiang will also receive a Plaque as Outstanding Law Dean in the said event, which will be attended by Supreme Court and Appellate Court justices as well as officers and members of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), Philippine Association of Law Professors (PALP), and Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).

"I was surprised when I learned about this award," said Dean Sundiang. "We are actually No. 5 among law schools in Metro Manila and 7th overall in the entire country."

Not resting on this recent achievement, he added: "I hope we can maintain our standing or even improve it in the future. I am confident we can do that if we can address the challenges confronting us."

Topping the list of Best Performing Law Schools in the Bar Exams is Ateneo de Manila University with an 89.63% average, followed by San Beda (85.74%), University of the Philippines (79.84%), Ateneo de Davao University (64.99%), University of Santo Tomas (61.23%), University of Santo Tomas (50.22%), AUSL, Xavier University (38.90%), Far Eastern University (31.14%), and University of San Agustin (31.63%).

The Top 5 schools will receive an Award for Excellence in Legal Education, while the 6th to 10th will be given the Award for Outstanding Law School. Arellano University President Francisco F.V. Cayco, Director Florentino S. Cayco III, and Vice Dean Virgilio R. Gesmundo will be joining Dean Sundiang in accepting the award for the school.

The school learned of the recognition through an official letter from former Justice Hilario Aquino, Chairperson of the LEB, addressed to the Dean’s Office.

The LEB, created through Republic Act No. 7662 or the Legal Education Reform Act of 1993, is mandated to supervise all law schools and continuing legal education providers in the country. Among the members of the Board are representatives of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), Philippine Association of Law Professors (PALP), active law practitioners, and bonafide law students.

1. ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
2. SAN BEDA COLLEGE
3. UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
4. ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY
5. UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS
6. UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS
7. ARELLANO UNIVERSITY
8. XAVIER UNIVERSITY
9. FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
10. UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN
**LAW COMMUNITY SENDS OFF AUSL BARRISTERS**

**By Jane Guiriba**

More than the usual cheers greeted the Arellano Law School’s Bar Exam hopefuls during the traditional Send-Off Party held at the Faculty Car Park on October 22 to mark the end of the regular program. Sessions of the Bar Review mark the end of the regular Car Park on October 22 to send off Party held at the Faculty during the traditional Send-School’s Bar Exam hopefuls by Jane Guiriba BARRISTERS.

SENDS OFF AUSL LAW COMMUNITY

A trio of professional entertainers called “The Godness of Belly Dance” joined street-dancers and drum-beaters in the annual gathering of the Arellano Law Community to show support for this year's barristers. The festive mood reverberated around campus to ward off the anxiety as the Bar Exam nears.

With its Mediterranean theme, the Send-Off organized by the school’s Center for Legal Education and Research (CLEAR) was a different kind of treat for the barristers who enjoyed the belly-dancing performances. In his speech during the program, Dean Jose SUNDIANG said the school professors and administrators did their best to prepare the barristers for the Exams. He encouraged those who failed in their first attempt not to lose heart, saying “to repeat the same mistake is tragedy but to correct a mistake is a thing of beauty.”

Dr. Florentino Cayco III, Vice Dean Virgilio Gesmundo, Judge Caridad Cuerdo, and Atty. Gabriel dela Pena also delivered inspirational remarks, all of them expressing their faith that the Arellano graduates can successfully hurdle the Bar.

A total of 280 Chiefs will take this year’s Bar Examinations at the University of Santo Tomas during the four Sundays of November.

**FIRST SEMESTER ENROLMENT HITS A NEW HIGH**

**By A. Cirera**

A record number of freshmen and transferees enrolled at the Arellano University School of Law in the first semester of school year 2011-2012, thanks in no small part to the school’s two topnotchers in the 2010 Bar Examinations.

The Office of the Registrar said that 264 new students, 28 of which are transferees, were enlisted during the first semester. The total number, which is disaggregated into 123 males and 141 females, was a huge leap from last year’s turnout of 174. AUSL’s current student population is 1,054, compared to only 988 last year.

Ruther Martinez, an accountant and a graduate of the University of the Philippines (UP), said that he was encouraged to pick Arellano University for his law school primarily because of the flexible work schedule and the fact that two of the Top Ten placers in the previous Bar Exams were alumni of the school.

First year student Alphecca Adolfo, a CPA who hails from Leyte and also a graduate of UP in Visayas, related that she finds the executive program very convenient for a working student like her. “I chose AUSL over other law schools primarily because its Executive Program nicely fits in my work schedule and I believe AUSL offers quality legal education comparable to that of the Top 3 law schools in the country,” Adolfo said.

Adolfo admitted that her only reservation about her twice-a-week classes is that it is arduous to handle two to three subjects a day. “It’s very draining. Next time, I’ll try some weekday classes, if possible,” she added.

Meanwhile, refreshers who took units during the first semester totaled 65—an increase from last year’s 53—but 18 of them later withdrew from the program.
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

SHARE YOUR FUNNY LAW SCHOOL ANECDOTES

DO YOU HAVE AN AMUSING EXPERIENCE IN LAW SCHOOL THAT NEVER FAILS TO ELICIT LAUGHTER?

Whether it is an embarrassing moment, a recitation gone wrong, a practical joke, a witty banter, or an unforgivable booboos—tell us and you can win yourself a prize if it leaves us LOL and ROTFL.

Submit entries with name, year, and contact information to auslgazette@gmail.com. Senders of the top three funniest anecdotes will receive a special prize. Only original and unpublished stories will be considered.

All entries will be pre-judged by The Gazette editors. The winning entries will be published in the next issue of The Gazette, giving the winners a shot at fame or further embarrassment, as the case may be. Deadline of submission is on 30 November 2011.

A Question of Law

The Gazette will be introducing a section wherein students can ask questions on law subjects that they want to ask our professors.

In the form of a letter, any student may ask a question addressed to a specific professor or to no one in particular and we will seek for and publish the best answer we can get. Send letters to auslgazette@gmail.com with name and student number.

Request for legal advice or personal objections?

Whether it is an embarrassing moment, a recitation gone wrong, a practical joke, a witty banter, or an unforgivable booboos—tell us and you can win yourself a prize if it leaves us LOL and ROTFL.

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ATTY. MA. ZARAH VILLANUEVA-CASTRO

WOMAN OF LAW AND SUBSTANCE

BY MARICEL TAPAY

I t the business of a law school is to teach law in a grand manner as what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. said, then business must be thriving in the law schools where Atty. Ma. Zarah Villanueva-Castro is teaching—for she does not only teach law in a grand manner, she also makes it an enjoyable learning experience.

Atty. Zarah, Commercial Law professor and bar reviewer at the Arellano University School of Law, has been teaching in the past 13 years and though known to many as a “strict” professor, her approach to inculcating in the minds of the students whatever she teaches endears her to not just a few.

Once in the classroom, she can engage anyone in playful banter yet never lose that serious tone. She can talk about ordinary life events one minute and surprisingly find a connection to the day’s topic of discussion seconds later. She can forget a student’s name, but she will always remember what one did that caught her attention—mostly the funny things. No, Atty. Zarah is not a genius of schizophrrenia. Her unique character is just a manifestation of versatility that developed out of the different roles she plays in her life.

Young and impressively smart – Atty. Zarah manages being a professor, a corporate lawyer and executive, a wife, and a mother all at the same time.

She works during the day as Assistant Vice-President and Head of Corporate Office – Legal of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco). She is also the Corporate Secretary of One Meralco Foundation, Inc., e-

Later in the day and a few hours during the weekends, she transforms into a professor of law at San Sebastian College, San Beda College, and Arellano or a lecturer in Bar Review Programs in places as far as Cebu City.

At the start, in between office and teaching hours, and the end of every day, she becomes what she loves the most and that is being a wife to her husband Samuel M. Castro, Jr. and a mother to her daughter Kiara Iola (pronounced Ayus).

It cannot be helped to wonder where she gets the energy to assume all these roles.

Well, she would sometimes borrow strength from Bacchus Energy Drink (make that sugar-free, please), but the constant push that makes her go the extra mile is her passion for teaching and love of family.

As a Student

Atty. Zarah graduated with Special Honors in Elementary and class Salutatorian in High School, both at the Immaculate Conception School in her hometown Boar, Marinduque. In college, she was a scholar at the University of the Philippines in Dilliman where she finished her BA Political Science degree. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws in San Beda College, graduating as Class Valedictorian.

Confessing about her diligence in studying, she says: “I would study in the morning before going to San Beda, and in the afternoon, kinukulit ko ang mga kalakalan ko who would only start to study once they got to the library.”

She did get her share of tough times, though, as a student. “I have never been absent in my Criminal Law class under Atty. Amurao until our last meeting. I decided to be absent just so I would experience how it feels to be absent. Unfortunately, my name was called for the recitation. I was given a failing grade for that recitation.”

When she took the bar exam in 1996, her mother was sick and was even confined at UST Hospital. Despite that, she managed to pass the bar with an even remarkable grade of 88.05.

Her key to success is no secret. “Successful law students, those who eventually pass the bar, are very determined, value discipline as well. These students usually figure out early how to maximize their time and they are the ones who prioritize their studies above anything else.”

As a Lawyer

Atty. Zarah was in her mid-20s when she became a lawyer. From 1997 to 1999, she worked with the Court of Appeals (CA) as Executive Assistant IV under the Office of Justice Angelina Gutiérrez. She was later promoted to Executive Assistant V and then Court Attorney V.

After her CA stint, she worked as Department Manager II at the Bases Conversion Development Authority in Villamor Airbase. Shortly thereafter, she joined Meralco where she is presently connected. She found her niche in corporate practice, which she says is a truly challenging and rewarding field.

Atty. Zarah shares an unforgettable experience as a private lawyer then: “Before I joined Meralco, I handled an annulment case which involved two PSG personnel. I represented the wife. The husband was a drug addict, while the wife was a battered woman. My client had to endure a lot of things due to her husband’s drug addiction. One of the things he forced her to do while he was high on Shabu was to dance naked at the flagpole of the PSG grounds.”

Her grand dream as a lawyer is to be able to write a book that would serve as her legacy in the legal profession. She is currently gathering materials for a book on Commercial Law that she says would correct the inaccuracies in the “Zarah Notes” circulating in law schools.

As a Law Professor

Atty. Zarah’s teaching career began at San Sebastian College in 1998. She became a professor at San Beda College in 2001 and then at Arellano in 2003. In the late Atty. Francis Sababan and Atty. Lumibao paved the way for her teaching stint in Arellano.

She considers as pet peeves those students who come to class unprepared and try to bluff their way out of the recitation by giving generic answers. She is aware that she is being branded as a terror professor, but she says this is the biggest misconception about her.

“I am not a terror (in class), but if you do not study, and if you do not pass my exams, then I am sorry, but you will fail… the final grade that I give is definitely non-negotiable and beyond the commerce of men.”

She finds satisfaction, and perhaps vindication, when her former students later come up to her and inform her that they passed the bar exams.

“I want to be remembered as a professor who gave her students the best knowledge possible, and who encouraged her students to prepare and study well not only for the bar examinations but for the entire legal profession as well.”

As Simply Zarah

With her hectic daily schedule, Atty. Zarah’s free time is golden and is usually spent with her family going out of town, watching movies, or doing activities with her kid such as painting. Whenever possible, she would bring Iola to law school and let her interact with students during break periods. She is proud of her daughter, who is now in Grade School in Miriam College, being quite an achiever herself - getting all of nine grades in her school subjects.

Atty. Zarah sees herself being an Archiceif if she did not become a lawyer. Showing her artistic side, she incorporates drawings in her teaching method to effectively explain difficult Commercial Law concepts. But if she can go back in time, she says she would have taken Accounting as pre-law course instead of Political Science.

Asked if she would want her child to also become a lawyer, she says why not. “Lawyering is after all the noblest profession.”

The Sum of All Her

Grand, Passionate, Noble. Those define Atty. Zarah’s aspirations in life. And she works hard to achieve them every day of her life whatever role she chooses to play.

Quick Q’s

1. If you could trade places with another for a day, who would that be?
   Glads de Laurentis

2. Who was your favourite That’s Entertainment member?
   Kapuso, Kapamilya, or Kapadát?
   Kapamilya Channel

3. Your favorite vaca-
   tion place is?
   Hamm. Ask me again after 10 years.

4. What song would aptly describe your life?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

5. Your favorite vaca-
   tion place is?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

6. What is your com-
   fort food?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

7. What is your com-
   fort food?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

8. Latest movie you
   saw?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

9. How many ex-boy-
   friends you had?
   “What song would aptly describe your life?”

10. Facebook or Twitter?
    “What song would aptly describe your life?”
NEW STUDENT COUNCIL ASSUMES OFFICE

BY FRANCIS R. SALVADOR

Members of the Supreme Student Council (SSC) of the Arellano University School of Law (AUSL) quietly assumed office in June for a full academic-year term.

The Council is composed of Alma Fides Espinosa, 4th year, President; Yumi A. Paypon, 4th year, Vice President for External Affairs; Mark M. Durante, 3rd year, Vice President for Internal Affairs; Jane Hazel Guiriba, 3rd year, Secretary; Rosemarie Carlos, 2nd year, Auditor; and Alex B. Santos, 4th year, Treasurer.

Several Council-led activities held during the first semester include the hosting of the First Lager Night, conduct of a Forum on Electoral Issues, and outreach activities. The SSC also paved the way for the revival of the Freedom Board, extension of library hours until 12 midnight during examination week, and provision of discount coupons of up to 5% on book purchases courtesy of Rex Bookstore during the enrolment period.

“The Council is dedicated to the cause of student excellence, including gaining positive support from the entire Arellano Community and encouragement from the administration,” said Espinosa.

During the semestral break, the Council officers lounced themselves supporting the preparations for the Bar Operations activities. As of this writing, they are still recruiting Bar Ops volunteers.

For the second semester, the SSC is planning to reinforce its continuing projects and organize new activities such as Fun Run and organize seminars and missions in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and a Fun Run sometime in February.
BY SHAYNE ANNE BASCO

T
he first strokes of greatness cannot be supplemented with subsequent fractions of luck. The celebration of one’s achievements begins with the support of the people around. As a bride, it is the siblings and friends who will bear witness to the love, joy, and tears on the wedding day.

Preparation is a habit within the Aretian Law Community. The tradition has been continuously evolving into a hard-work inducing machine. The Chief loves his own. Like a good shepherd, it guards and directs its flock towards its end. Hence, after providing four grueling years of arduous training, AUSL continuously商品房 the process by providing four grueling years of arduous training. The AUSL Bar Review Program tirelessly grinds its gears with grand intentions of providing the best with the best for the best.

The bar review is one of the key factors that are essential to the success of the AUSL graduates. The AUSL Bar Review Program is an integral part of the AUSL curriculum. The bar review program helps students to prepare for the Bar Exam, which is one of the most important and challenging examinations that they will ever face. The program is designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed on the bar exam.

The program covers all the relevant topics and provides students with the necessary tools to pass the exam. It includes lectures, review materials, and practice exams. The lectures are given by experienced professionals who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field. The review materials are designed to help students understand and retain the information necessary for passing the exam. The practice exams provide students with a realistic and accurate representation of the types of questions that will be asked on the exam.

The AUSL Bar Review Program is designed to help students prepare for the bar exam. It is a comprehensive and well-structured program that provides students with the necessary tools to succeed on the exam. It is an essential part of the AUSL curriculum and is highly recommended to all students who are preparing for the bar exam.

In conclusion, the AUSL Bar Review Program is an integral part of the AUSL curriculum. It helps students prepare for the bar exam, which is one of the most important and challenging examinations that they will ever face. The program is designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed on the exam. It covers all the relevant topics and provides students with the necessary tools to pass the exam. It includes lectures, review materials, and practice exams. The lectures are given by experienced professionals who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field. The review materials are designed to help students understand and retain the information necessary for passing the exam. The practice exams provide students with a realistic and accurate representation of the types of questions that will be asked on the exam. The AUSL Bar Review Program is an essential part of the AUSL curriculum and is highly recommended to all students who are preparing for the bar exam.
Law as a Social Science

By Kremil S. David

You may not be aware of it. But when you borrow any reading material from the library, you find a gun label at the spine of the book. You may wonder why these gun labels have not been removed. The gun labels have three-digit number always starts with 34 followed by dots and series of other numbers.

Any librarian will easily figure out what these numbers mean. As part of the classification, many libraries follow the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) of books. The DDC classifies the books and other library materials into ten classes, each class divided into ten divisions, and further divided into ten sections.

In the book for that matter belong to the general classification under 300-399 – Social Sciences. To be specific, Division 340 pertains to law, and all other sections within this Division include the following: 341 – International law; 342 – Constitutional and administrative law; 343 – Military, tax, trade, industrial law; 344 – Social, labor, welfare, and related law; 345 – Criminal law; 346 – Private law; 347 – Civil procedure and courts; 348 – Laws, regulations, and cases; 349 – Laws of specific jurisdictions.

Most of the time, these numbers may not provide practical value to a law student, who is in a hurry to get the general registry number of the book. Nevertheless, you can visit it via www.lawphil.net. But for the purists of a library science, law as a discipline is simply a sub-classification of Social Sciences.

Civil Law Professor Domingo Leongas has a term for it. He finds that there is a total disconnect between what the law says and the reality in the social context. He gives an example of the civil code provisions on illegitimate children. The law prescribes that illegitimate children and rights and benefits accorded to them by law seem to miss the social context. He says, "We have the guts to say that justice delayed is justice denied."

Recently, the Supreme Court has decided on the bar exam question. From the traditional essay type of question, the Court will now adhere to the Multiple Choice Question. The purpose of the MCQ as we call it is to objectively gauge the competence of the examinees. The Court is more interested in the writing skills of would-be lawyers who will still have to be assessed by the second part (opinion making and memorandum writing) which comprises 40% of the bar examination.

The highest tribunal bewails the fact that one of the culprits in the bar examination is the inability of the examinees to express their arguments fluently in English language. The problem, as observed by the academicians, in the past decades, has been a decline in the students’ proficiency of the English language. This is where disconnect lies. In trying to address the issue of disconnect between the bar exam, the Court deems it proper to reform the examination by shifting to the MCQ, hoping that the Court can objectively determine who are qualified to be admitted in the legal profession.

A deeper problem, however, is not squarely addressed by our institutions. This refers to the language of the law as used in courts and legislation.

It is quite odd that a trial lawyer conducts his direct or cross examination of a witness in English. Yet, there is a standby court interpreter doing the interpretation of the proceedings ready for the stenographer to transcribe. Except for the interpretation, this is social malady. They draft laws in English, interpret in English, and in various ways provide a solution, which ordinary citizens cannot simply understand.

All the while we thought: the language of the law must not be foreign to the ears of those who are to obey it. This is a premise of our system. We insist on using a foreign language despite the fact that a majority of our people are not versed to the nuances of the language. It is naïve to think that we can only hope that there is a way to address this issue of disconnect between our medium of instruction and the prevailing social condition in our midst.

Society is a complex amalgamation of several actors and institutions involved in it. The state in its legitimate function is no different from the manner in which not all groups of people comprising the society can be expected to be well informed of the rules and their implications. For the society to become orderly and peaceful, we resort to the law. That is why, social psyche. Our disrespect for time has brought us into a quagmire of clogged courts and in legislation.

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The Bar Operations Commission, in cooperation with the Center for Legal Education and Research (CLEAR), has been organizing activities meant to gather and compiling significant information from the lectures to be held at the hotel where the barristers will be billeted.

The Commission has also taken part in planning and conducting activities meant to gather support for the barristers such as training, guidance, and facilitation of Eucharistic Celebrations, and Post-Bar Party to be held on the evening of the last Sunday of the Exam.

“We are almost in the last stretch. We are excited. We are grateful to all the CLEAR lawyers and staff, Commissioners, Executive Committee members, Subject Heads, and all the volunteers who contribute to making the 2011 Bar Operations a success,” said Medina.

November 2011 ARELLANO LAW GAZETTE

Bar Operations Commission Boosts Bar PREPS

By Shaye Anne Basco

The journey towards success may be long, tedious, and arduous but the 280 Chiefs taking the Bar Examinations this year will never walk alone. The Bar Operations Commission, in cooperation with the Center for Legal Education and Research (CLEAR), has been organizing activities meant to gather and compiling significant information from the lectures to be held at the hotel where the barristers will be billeted.

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THE BAR CONFIDANT’S LAST MINUTE REMINDERS

BY JOHN PAUL GALANG

I. There are last-minute tips from Bar lecturers and reviewers, there are also last-minute reminders from the Bar Confidant to ensure a smooth, worry-free conduct of the Bar Examinations. Amy Ma, Cristina B. Layusa, like a doting mother to all 6,000-plus Bar takers, shares the following important reminders:

1. Come on time. Examinees should be in UST by 7:00am and in their assigned rooms by 7:30am. You don’t want to feel the time pressure early.

2. Don’t forget your exam permit. The permit is your Notice of Admission. It’s a cardinal rule: No permit, no exam.

3. Wear your ID lace with care. Lace is mandatory but it will facilitate entry into the exam venue. This “accessory” provided by the OBC, should display your exam permit and building assignment as shown.

4. Don’t bring colorless drinks such as coffee and co- elas in the exam room. This is to avoid spillage on the answer sheet that might stain the paper and render your answers unreadable. Drinking of water is fine as it is colorless and acid free.

5. Read carefully the Bar Exam Rules of Conduct/Guidelines. This 8-page document provides instructions and other trial information for the examinees such as the time when the exams will start and finish, do’s and don’ts, designated entry/exit points in UST, etc.

6. Bring as many sharpened pencils as you can. Pencils will be used in shading your answer of choice. What is required is the No. 2 type. Bring ones that are already sharpened to avoid the hassle. Ballpens will still be used but only in writing the name and signature on the test sheets.

7. Bring a jacket. Just in case the temperature gets too cold for your own comfort in the exam rooms.

8. Don’t forget your eyeglasses and prescribed medicines. If you need them, make sure to bring them with you all the time.

9. Well-wishers are not allowed along España. Only examinees will be allowed at the drop-off points along España. Bystanders will not be allowed at the sidewalk area. Streamers are also not allowed within the vicinity of UST.

10. Pray. This is your ultimate weapon.

Good luck!

Left: Bar Confidant Ma. Cristina B. Layusa

BAR EXAM RETROSPECTION

BY FRANCIS R. SALVADOR

“Bar” Origin

Though many of us have made it to law school, we still could hardly figure out how the term “bar” came to be and how the bar examinations originated. The author too shall admit that it was only when he began writing about the subject that he understood it fully.

As most of us know, of course, “bar” refers to the legal profession. Which is why when a bar candidate (a barrister) passes the bar examinations he is practically admitted to the profession. In instances when a lawyer’s license to practice law is revoked, he or she is said to be “disbarred.”

The term “bar” was originally used in dividing medieval European courtrooms where a barring furniture was placed between their working and public areas. The working area is restricted to lawyers, judges, and other participants in the trial (the jury if any, the litigants, and witnesses) giving testimony. On the other hand the public area is restricted to those who generally have no interest in the trial as they are ordinarily members of the community.

While similar to American courtrooms where we see a railing or a barr- ies, American bar examinations were not initially equipped with windows, or gates. We have seen this in films or more prevalently in US television shows (like the set of the phenomenal hit se- ries, Law and Order, which by the way (like in the set of the phenomenal hit se- ries, Law and Order, which by the way

II. The American Bar Association of the Philippine Islands. These and many other practices remained as they were until recently when a new methodology of doing the test was put in place. From the conventional essay type, this year’s batch of candidates will now have to contend with Multiple Choice Question type or MCQ. Thus it has apparently gone into essentially changing the substantive and methodological aspect of the writ- ten test. You can include to this change the structural evolution that over the years has proven to have trained and produced excellent legal minds.

For example, the subjects were increased from six – Civil Law, Civil Procedure, Mercantile Law, Criminal Procedure, Private and Public Interna- tional Law, and Practical Exercises – in 1900 to seven – Civil Law, Mercantile Law, Criminal Law, Political Law, International Law, Remedial Law, and Legal Ethics and Practical Exercises. In 1916, and then to eight – adding Land Registration and Mortgages. In 1922, the cover- age of the bar examinations was again expanded in 1964 by adding Labor Law and Taxation and included all the exist- ing ones (Political Law and Public Law and International Law). In 1968, the exam- iners were now asked to write about Land Registration and Mortgages which was merged with Civil Law, as was Private International Law.

The tradition of determining the “bar topnotchers” began in 1913. Then in 1923, it expanded to having the “Top Ten” successful candidates. Three years later the Supreme Court continued with its administrative reforms with the es- tablishment of the Office of the Deputy Clerk of Court. Given this new reform in 1940, the bar examinations became a four-day series of tests.

There was a proposal 38 years ago for the abolition of the bar examinations. Those who supported it wanted to adopt a system of accreditation. This was a new ven- ture because it was first in force during the Spanish regime. Under the proposed system, only graduates of accredited law schools will be granted the license to practice law. Yet shortly after gaining starring public momentum, it eventually faded out.

Hail to the Topnotchers

Listed below are the names of ten select bar topnotchers over the years who averaged the highest percentage average they garnered, including the era, the year, and the school where they graduated:

POST-WAR

1951   Lorenzo R. Balagtas         96.7   SBC
1959   Aurelio R. C. Maguana       95.55  PLS
1965   Manuel C. Montecillo        95.33  FEU

WAR TIME

1941   Pedro B. Salonga            95.2   UP
1944   Jovito R. Salonga           95.3   Special

PRE-WAR

1940   Claudio Tecson              94.35  ATEEX
1947   Ameurfina A. Melencio       94.25  UP

1952   Pedro Sanson C. Animas      94.25  UP
1953   Leonardo A. Imoes           94.05  UP
1954   Hilario M. Abad             94.10  UP
2001   Rodelito M. L. Pajendra     92.20  UP

PRE-WAR

1914   Manuel Goyena               93   UP
1916   Paulino Gallas              93   UP
1917   Gemeingadillo Ariasa         93   UP

Sources:

The Lawyer’s Review: Topnotchers in the Bar Examinations. April 30, 2005


http://www.pajaida.org/boelbar_27424623.html

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Philippine Law Journal: Toward Meaningful Reforms

Committee on the Examination of Foreign Civil Justice Arbi- trators. Philippines 1946

Philippine Law Journal: Toward Meaningful Reforms


In the Bar Examinations by Justice Vincent Y. Mendez, Vol.

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The crime of September 26, 2010, is a war of a few against all of us.

It has been a year since Raissa Laurel lost her feet, and the sufferings of all the injured victims of the tragedy; one year after all of us felt fear when we realized how evil could come into our midst. It has been a year since we raged at those who dared to make a mockery of our laws, to make a mockery of all of us who represent that law. And so we ask, what have the authorities done? Are those who tried to kill and to maim and to ruin ever going to receive the punishment they deserve? Or must this once again become an instance when power and connections frustrate our demand for what is right? The rule of law is the cornerstone of any democracy, of any society. If the government is really bent on winning back the people’s confidence, there is no better way to begin than here, in this case involving people who have consecrated themselves to the service of justice.

Therefore, we the Arellano community, call upon President Aquino to see to it that the full force of government be employed to prosecute the guilty.

“Believe you can and you’re half-way there.”

- Theodore Roosevelt, former US President

“IT IS BETTER THAT YOU FAIL THE CLASS NOW, AND LEARN YOUR LESSON, THAN TO FAIL THE BAR AND START ALL OVER AGAIN.”

- Atty. Zarah Villanueva Castro

“A WAR AGAINST ALL OF US

BY ALMA FIDES OLIVAR-ESPINOZA

WE ALL KNOW THAT OFT-QUOTED MAXIM FROM THOMAS HOBBES, WHICH HE USED TO DESCRIBE THE STATE OF NATURE BELLLUM OMNVM, CONTRA OMNES, THE WAR OF ALL AGAINST ALL...

It is a society where might is right, and only the strongest survive. It is towards avoiding this condition that human beings gather together in a community governed by laws, so that the rights of the weak might not be trampled by the strong, and that people might attain their goals as allies and friends, not as enemies and competitors. It is the law that enables our society to survive, and corollary to this, it is in the fidelity and the protection of the guardians and enforcers of the law that justice and order in that society depend. For what hope can there be for the common man to attain justice, when the judge and the lawyer and the law student and the police are victims of injustice, or themselves are its perpetrators? In this context, we come to remember the tragedy of September 26, 2010, when the lives of more than 40 law students were ruined by the dastardly act of a few. It is not a tragedy only for the victims, but also a tragedy for all of us, students, law schools, and all Filipinos, for it showed us that even in institutions dedicated to the pursuit of justice, lawlessness is not just a possibility, but is all too real.

In this context, we come to remember the tragedy of September 26, 2010, when the lives of more than 40 law students were ruined by the dastardly act of a few. It is not a tragedy only for the victims, but also a tragedy for all of us, students, law schools, and all Filipinos, for it showed us that even in institutions dedicated to the pursuit of justice, lawlessness is not just a possibility, but is all too real.
G

ood afternoon to all of you future lawyers. Our session today is themed around the topic: recitation and the way you may prepare for it. As you all know, recitation is a part of your course in the law school. It is an assessment tool, which measures your level of knowledge and comprehension. In preparation for this, your task is to make sure you are well prepared.

There are a number of pointers which I would like to discuss with you. I would like you to know that I will be discussing the subject today as a layman. My experience is simply as a student of the law, and I do not pretend to have the qualifications to discuss this topic with the same expertise as a professional in the field.

1. AVOID recitation anxiety

In preparation for recitation, I would like to remind you that recitation anxiety is very common among law students. Recitation anxiety refers to a feeling of nervousness or fear that arises when a student is expected to recite legal principles or facts in front of an audience. This anxiety can be particularly challenging for law students who are not used to public speaking or who feel unprepared.

To help overcome recitation anxiety, try the following tips:

- Be prepared: Make sure you have thoroughly studied the relevant legal principles and cases before the recitation.
- Practice: Practice reciting out loud and in front of others to build your confidence.
- Take deep breaths: Deep breathing exercises can help calm your nerves and reduce anxiety.
- Visualize success: Visualize yourself successfully reciting in front of the class.

2. Recitation is normal stuff

Recitation is a part of the law school curriculum. It is a tool used to assess your understanding of the course material. As such, it is important to approach recitation with a positive mindset.

Recitation is not a test of your intelligence or ability. It is simply an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned. It is a normal part of the law school experience, and it is important to take it seriously.

3. Be prepared

As a student of the law, it is your responsibility to be well-prepared for recitation. This means having a thorough understanding of the legal principles and cases that will be covered in the recitation.

To be well-prepared, you should:
- Read the assigned readings before class.
- Review your notes and class discussions.
- Make sure you understand the key concepts and principles.

4. Be humble

It is important to remember that you are not a professional lawyer yet. You are still a student, learning and growing. Be humble and willing to admit when you do not know something.

5. Recitation survival tips

If you need help preparing for recitation, consider the following tips:
- Use mnemonic devices: Mnemonic devices are a great way to remember legal principles and cases.
- Create flowcharts: Flowcharts can help you visualize the concepts you need to learn.
- Use diagrams: Diagrams can help you understand complex legal principles.
- Use flashcards: Flashcards can help you memorize legal terms and concepts.
- Use the Socratic method: The Socratic method is a great way to prepare for recitation. It involves asking and answering questions about the legal principles and cases.

By following these tips, you can be well-prepared for recitation and perform to the best of your ability.
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