

## FOREWORD

*Conchita Carpio Morales\**

Select, scholarly University of the Philippines College of Law students have kept the centuries-old tradition of discussing via the Philippine Law Journal contentious, current national issues and advocating reforms that could lead to improvement of policies thereon.

In *Re-examining the Dimensions of External Forcible Interventions in Internal Conflicts*, Gemmo Bautista Fernandez dwells on the rule proscribing states from intervening on the territory of others, instances and grounds proffered to justify intervention, and proposed guidelines where intervention may be justified.

The JOURNAL, through Justin D.J. Suggang, also proffers a theoretical foundation of human dignity which serves as a *common currency* of judicial decisions in matters of human rights as it identifies, describes, and presents the Filipino concept of human dignity, *if there is any such a thing*.

Also taken up in the JOURNAL is Andrea G. Alegre’s analysis of the regulatory framework for On-Demand Food Delivery Platforms, the legal obligations imposed thereon, and the need to balance the interest of the State, consumers, workers, and the platform providers themselves in the imposition of the obligations.

The JOURNAL also examines, through Daniel Al Baniás Delfin’s work, the state of prisons in the Philippines—overcrowding, “subhuman and Dantean, harsh and threatening,”—and proposes remedies to alleviate or to check the present state of things, deemed to be against “cruel, degrading or inhuman punishment” that the Constitution dictates.

Additionally, in the field of competition law, the JOURNAL discusses *Dismantling a Duopoly: the Applicability of the Essential Facilities Doctrine in the Philippine Broadband and Telecommunications Industry*. Monique Ang particularly discusses whether incumbent telecommunication providers exhibit anti-competitive conduct; the *essential facilities doctrine*—how it may be implemented

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in the Philippines through open access or local loop unfriending; and the recommendations of the application of the doctrine in the Philippines as well as refuting possible objections thereto.

Finally, the JOURNAL through Kent Almadro Alonzo, presents *A “Civil Gideon” for the Indigent Filipino Litigant: The Necessity of a Statutory Anchor in Effectuating the Right to Counsel of Indigents in Civil Case*, in light of the right of indigents in civil disputes under the Code of Professional Responsibility. It is a discussion on the interplay of legal ethics, the Constitutional clause on due process, and the mandatory duty to make available courts and quasi-judicial agencies for indigents in civil disputes and criminal proceedings in the practice of law.

All in all, the topics in Volume 92 of the Philippine Law Journal make an informative and interesting reading.

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