

**BOOK REVIEW:**

# Legal and Judicial Ethics

By Mr. Justice George A. Malcolm

Occasionally good books for use in the schools and colleges of the Philippines serve a broader purpose than that of the class room. Mr. Justice Malcolm's *Legal and Judicial Ethics*, just published, is one of them. Written primarily for his students to replace the former text which "had become one of the minor casualties of the war," this new book is most fittingly "adapted for the Republic of the Philippines." When public morality and ethics are at their lowest ebb, when members of the bar and recognized leaders in the administration of law and justice have become themselves their erring ministers, the reading of Mr. Malcolm's new volume furnishes a wholesome relief from counsels of despair.

Mr. Justice Malcolm's *Legal and Judicial Ethics* is worth reading and re-reading. It should be a constant companion to judges, lawyers, and prospective lawyers. Its very first chapter gives the reader an interesting account of the criticisms for ages levelled at the law profession. It points how the members of the bar, by their ignorance of the tenets of the profession or by their complete disregard of them, have furnished the grounds for such criticisms. The chapters that follow portray vividly the duties and obligations of lawyers and judges. The illustrations given from decided cases demonstrate how admission to this ancient fellowship implies more than mere private gains, and how a lawyer may lose himself in cold-blooded specialization and efficiency, where love of service and the profession gives way to the quest for material prosperity.

To read the book is to be impressed by the dignity of the law profession, a profession clothed with great privileges but weighted with heavy burdens.

The book will indeed be a faithful friend to those who have resisted the temptations at wrongdoing; a wholesome counselor to erring ones who may yet retrace their steps to positions of honor and dignity; a cheerful companion for all who sooner or later must realize the need to restore the profession to its own lost ground and to enshrine once again its great traditions which demand "not honesty alone, but the punctilio of an hour the most sensitive."

DR. GAUDENCIO GARCIA  
Professor, UP College of Law