

THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE: DEAN JOSE A. ESPIRITU and DEAN VICENTE G. SINCO

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A change in the leadership of a law school possesses significance. There has been such a change in the College of Law. Dean Jose A. Espiritu, after forty years of service, almost half of it as Dean, has retired. One of its outstanding faculty members, on leave for quite a while due to his being drafted by the Osmeña administration, Dean Vicente G. Sinco, has taken his place. The former has gained eminence in the field of commercial law. The new Dean is justly acclaimed for his mastery of public law. The tradition of excellence thus continues.

They are alike in being men of strong individuality, intellectual honesty, and high standards of scholarship, applied with strictness but always with justice. They are alike, too, in the love of teaching, the love of the law, and their eagerness to help make good lawyers. By precept and by example, law students learn from them the truth that to attain proficiency, to get anywhere in the law, there must be painstaking hard work and sustained intellectual effort.

Thus it is that only the dull and lazy students had no love for their method of instruction. The alert, the diligent, the gifted welcomed the difficult problems and penetrating questions, providing as they did, great stimulus to thinking and understanding. Without exception, though, all those, who have had the privilege of being in their classes, have developed a deep admiration for them. They could not help but realize that if Dean Espiritu and Dean Sinco at times had been exacting and rigorous in their appraisal of their efforts, it was only out of a desire to develop their latent talents. For their interest in student welfare is genuine and sincere.

Innately kind and considerate, they have given unselfishly of themselves in guiding and advising the young. They have been generous with their talents and their time in attending to student needs. Their counsel has been much sought after and has not been withheld. While invariably dignified of bearing, they have yet been approachable and friendly.

In them we see a passionate dedication of great gifts to noble purposes. They have made good use of a professor's leisure to learn and the freedom to think. A legal educator belongs to the elect if he can instruct men, measure men, and, if possible, make men. Few are the fortunate ones who can do all these things. Dean Jose A. Espiritu and Dean Vicente G. Sinco can and do. The College of Law has been, and is now, in good hands.