IBP MAKATI NEWSLETTER

Volume VI, Issue 2 October 2009

The President's Corner

By: Joel Raymond R. Ayson
President, IBP Makati City Chapter
2009-2011

The Transformers. Creative juices were at work again (thank you Director Juor) when *The Transformers* video presentation introduced your Board during the Chapter's Fellowship Night and 10th Induction Ceremonies at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel last September 3, 2009. The entertainment aside, the moniker is appropriate and timely - to be a transformer one needs to serve.

Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan, a respected member of our Chapter, is the epitome of service in the legal profession. A veteran litigator and law professor, Atty. Vinluan was set to serve as National President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for the current term 2009 to 2011. Unfortunately, he has not been allowed to take his oath. This is cause for concern because during the previous term, the Chapter endorsed Atty. Vinluan as Governor representing the IBP Southern Luzon Region. Atty. Vinluan was elected IBP Executive Vice President (2007-2009) making him the next IBP National President (2009-2011) pursuant to the IBP By-Laws.

The recent controversy surrounding the election of the IBP Executive Vice President for the term 2009-2011 is not a justification why Atty. Vinluan cannot assume the position of National President. We fully support Atty. Vinluan and call upon the Chapter members to rally behind Atty. Vinluan. Quoted below are resolutions passed by the Board of IBP Makati at its regular meeting on September 11:

WHEREAS, on 28 February 2008, the Honorable Supreme Court, en banc, affirmed the election of Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan as Executive Vice President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for the term 2007-2009 (In re: Compliance of IBP Chapters with Adm. Order No. 16-2007, Letter Compliance of Atty. Ramon Edison C. Batacan, A.M. No. 07-3-13-SC, 547 SCRA 1).

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 47(2) of the By-Laws of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines provides that "The Executive Vice President shall automatically become President for the next succeeding term. The Presidency shall rotate among the nine Regions."

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 50 of the By-Laws of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) provides that the President shall be the Chief Executive of the IBP.

WHEREAS, there is a current dispute over the election of the Executive Vice President for the term 2009-2011, which does not affect the validity of Atty. Vinluan's lawful tenure as IBP National President.

WHEREAS, Atty. Vinluan is now the subject of clearly malicious and harassment cases filed by several parties to prevent his lawful assumption as IBP National President for the term 2009-2011.

WHEREAS, the SUPREME COURT has appointed an Officer in Charge of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, creating a misimpression that the IBP does not have a President qualified to be its Chief Executive as provided in the IBP By-Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, the Board of Officers and Directors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Makati City Chapter RESOLVES:

1. That Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan, an esteemed member of the Chapter and a legal luminary, be allowed to assume his office as IBP National President and be allowed to perform all duties and functions incident thereto.

2. That Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan be recognized as the duly qualified and elected officer to lead the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, in accordance with the IBP By-Laws.

We trust the Supreme Court will resolve the matter with dispatch so that Atty. Vinluan can perform his duties and functions as our National President and continue to serve the legal profession.

On a larger scale, we also cannot deny that in eight months we will be electing the next President of our country. As lawyers, our services will again be needed to represent diverse if not, competing, political, social, economic or even personal persuasions. The IBP as an organization should remain non-partisan, but as *Transformers* it is not only our role but our duty to ensure that through the electoral process, we are able to

Continued on page 3

10TH INDUCTION CEREMONIES: A ROUSING SUCCESS

By: Janice Kae P. Ramirez

An elegant "black and white" evening set the tone for the IBP Makati Chapter's 10th Induction Ceremonies on September 3, 2009, held at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel. Sworn into office for the years 2009 to 2011 were Chapter President, Joel Raymond R. Ayson; Vice-President, Grace P. Quevedo-Panagsagan; Secretary, Jose M. Jose; Assistant Secretary, Carmine Eliza T. Serreno; Treasurer, Josephine Alessandra G. Cochico; Assistant Treasurer, Eric R. Recalde; Auditor, Gilbert L. Zerrudo; Public Relations Officer, Anthony W. Dee; and Directors Bienvenido I. Somera, Jr., Alexander C. Dy, Gregorio F. Fernandez, Batibut G. Cuyugan, and Juor P. Buted.

Gracing the affair was Hon. Napoleon Inoturan, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, who acted as both inducting officer and guest speaker. Other esteemed guests included Makati court judges and past chapter presidents.

In his inaugural address, Atty. Joel Ayson named some of the programs mapped out by the chapter for the years 2009 to 2011, such as the continued tie-up with the congressional outreach programs in various barangays in the 2nd District of Makati; the commitment to support the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels Program; the 36-unit MCLE course for the third compliance period; the coastal clean-up project in Anilao, Batangas; the Bench and Bar Dialogues; the launching of the first ever hall of fame for outstanding Makati City judges, prosecutors and court personnel; and fund raising events, sports and special projects, first of which was the special screening of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. Finally, with the 2010 presidential elections just around the corner, Atty. Ayson called on fellow lawyers to be mindful of their moral duties as they represent diverse, if not, competing, political, social, economic or even personal persuasions.

In yet another IBP Makati tradition, spirited fellowship, flowing drinks and lively dancing capped off a superb night.

The formal induction of the Chapter's new officers, directors and members took place on September 03, 2009 at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, graced by Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, Hon. Napoleon Inoturan, Makati Court judges and past Chapter Presidents.

ATTENTION IBP MAKATI MEMBERS!

To enable you to receive the latest news and information on IBP activities, please update us on your home or office addresses and telephone numbers, and any requests for transfers to or from the IBP Makati Chapter. Please send the information to the Chapter Office, UG 39 Cityland Dela Rosa Condominium, Dela Rosa Street, Makati City, Attention: Membership Committee, telefax no. 813-4744 or email: ibpmakati@gmail.com.

You can also visit our website at www.ibpmakati.com.

The President's Corner

from page 1

select qualified leaders who will serve the country. We cannot afford to be left further behind by our Asian neighbors. It may be worthwhile to remind ourselves and recall what Chief Justice Puno recently said:

"We need not march to the streets, we need not raise our clenched fists – we need only to listen to the whispers of our conscience reminding us of … the timeless moral values in life."

FYI

By: J. Alessandra G. Cochico

IBP MAKATI OFFICER AUTHORS BOOK ON TAXATION

IBP Makati Assistant Treasurer Eric R. Recalde has just released the first volume in a series of books on taxation. Volume I deals with tax principles and remedies under the National Internal Revenue Code. The book is published by Rex Bookstore. Eric is currently working on the second volume in the series which will deal with local taxes and customs laws. Tax enthusiasts will greatly benefit from Eric's insights on this subject.

IBP MAKATI SPONSORS MCLE SEMINARS FOR THIRD COMPLIANCE PERIOD

The IBP Makati Committee on Legal Education spearheaded by Director Bienvenido I. Somera, Jr. and Committee Head John Jerico L. Balisnomo have organized a series of MCLE seminars to complete the 36 units required for the third compliance period. The seminars are scheduled on the following dates:

06 November 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Friday)
13 November 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Friday)
20 November 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Friday)
26 November 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Thursday)
04 December 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Friday)

and will be held at The A Venue Hotel Suites, Antel Lifestyle City, 7829 Makati Avenue, Makati City. Interested parties may contact IBP Makati for the list of topics and lecturers. The seminar fees are priced at P12,000.00 for the whole thirty six (36)-unit program, inclusive of buffet lunch and snacks. After each lecture day, participants are also invited to join a fellowship at a nearby establishment for a round of drinks courtesy of the Chapter. Special package rates are available for those who intend to attend seminars on a day-to-day basis or on a per lecture basis.

The Chapter officers, members and volunteers trooped to Bambu Villa in Mabini, Batangas for a day of lectures on environmental awareness, conservation of marine resources and sustainable natural resource management. A 2009 Ramon Magsaysay awardee, Atty. Antonio Oposa, Jr., one of Asia's leading voices in the global arena of environmental law, discussed how the law can be a medium and a tool to save the environment, emphasizing "there must be a revolution of the mind, of attitudes." The event was a great venue for discussions on field enforcement of fishing, environmental litigation, education on sustainable living, advising local governments on crafting environment-preserving legislation and establishing marine sanctuaries. In line with the presentations, the SEALS also provided Introduction to Diving lessons to provide the event's participants a practical experience on marine biodiversity and a breathtaking view of the beauty of Philippine marine life.

The good food, relaxing setting, and the inviting waters of Batangas were the perfect backdrop for recreation, fellowship and camaraderie between the Chapter's officers, members and volunteers.

With the success of the first IBP Makati Coastal Clean Up event, the Chapter is looking forward to more activities to encourage everyone to join the crusade to engage Filipinos in acts of enlightened citizenship that maximize the power of law to protect and nurture the environment for ourselves

Continued on page 4

IBP MAKATI NEWSLETTER
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The IBP Makati Newsletter is the official publication of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines - Makati Chapter, produced by the Publications Committee. We welcome your contributions! Contact Attys. J. Alessandra G. Cochico/ Andre B. Navato, Jr. at tel. no. 8308000, fax no. 8124897/8160119, e-mail: accra@accralaw.com.

The Chapter held its First Environmental Coastal Clean Up at the Bambu Villa Resort, Anilao, Mabini, Batangas on September 19, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP EVENT

By: Carmela L. Sacasas

On September 19, 2009, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Makati Chapter ("IBP-Makati") joined thousands of volunteers from all over the Philippines and an estimated 35 million volunteers from 120 countries, who took community based action to help protect the environment for future generations as part of the Clean Up the World Campaign.

IBP Makati, the first chapter to join the Clean Up event, took action that not only benefited the local environment but also helped the rest of the world address, and limit, the impacts of climate change. The Chapter, headed by its President Atty. Joel Ayson, members and volunteers made a valuable contribution not just to the Philippine community but to the rest of the world, at a time when global action on climate change is needed.