



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2020/21 BAR CHAIRPERSON

**BAR BULLETIN NO. 14, S. 2020**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE 2020/21 BAR CHAIRPERSON**

I confirm the statement of the Chief Justice during the September 24, 2020 Budget Hearing of the Judiciary that Office of the Bar Chairperson has been studying the possibility of conducting online but proctored bar exams or a mix of online and written exams in more than two places as part of bar reforms. Accessibility to the bar exams and geographic equity has always been one of the more important principles that has moved bar reforms. As Bar Chairperson, I have provided general briefings to the Court *En Banc* but have not yet made a firm proposal until all the logistical and security issues have been worked out. I am also in constant consultation with members of the Court and the bar chairpersons that will succeed me in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Definitely, the bar examinations will not be conducted as it was before. We have to embrace a better normal that is safe, effective, and equitable taking advantage of the best digital formats while at the same time acknowledging issues of security and accessibility for some bar applicants.


The essential coordination with law schools represented by the Philippine Association of Law Schools will be made at the appropriate time. In the coming months, pilot tests will be done to see the viability of various proposals. Critical to the timeline is to provide the bar applicants with information ahead of the scheduled examinations so that they can be prepared to use the new modalities, if any.

In the meantime, I urge our bar applicants to study well and address the security and safety not only of themselves but also their loved ones. The quality of your study will determine the quality of your results. Find inspiration in the possibility that you can be of greater service to our people.

More definite announcements will be made by the Office of the Bar Chairperson in due time after its approval by the Court *En Banc*.

For your information and guidance.

September 24, 2020.

  
**MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN**  
*Associate Justice and  
2020/21 Bar Examinations  
Chairperson*