



Supreme Court of the Philippines
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION OFFICE
4th Floor, IBP Building
15 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Governing Board Resolution No. 007-2014

Resolution Requiring Counsel to File a Written Entry of Appearance before appearing and arguing in the Courts and Quasi-Judicial Bodies

WHEREAS, Bar Matter No. 1922 requires practicing members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to indicate in all pleadings filed before the courts or quasi-judicial bodies, the number and date of issue of their MCLE certificate of compliance or exemption, as may be applicable, for the immediately preceding compliance period;

WHEREAS, due to the specific wordings of Bar Matter No. 1922, practicing lawyers who have not complied with the MCLE were able to avoid compliance by not signing pleadings and having it signed instead by their MCLE compliant associates, but arguing the case as counsel in open court or quasi-judicial body;

WHEREAS, the mandatory nature of continuing legal education applies to all members of the IBP and it is definitely not the intention of Bar Matter No. 850 to exempt compliance if a lawyer does not sign pleadings but engages only in oral arguments of the case;

WHEREAS, to effectively forestall this practice of eluding compliance with the MCLE, counsel should file a written entry of appearance when appearing in court or quasi-judicial body;

WHEREAS, in a number of cases¹, the Court itself has recognized that the orderly conduct of judicial proceedings would require that counsel file his formal written appearance, though the Court has not made the same mandatory.

WHEREFORE, all members of the IBP shall file a written entry of appearance before appearing as counsel or engaging in oral argument in open court or before quasi-judicial body, indicating their MCLE number for the current or immediately preceding compliance period and date of issue thereof.

Non-compliance with the above requirement shall subject counsel to appropriate penalty and disciplinary action as provided in Bar Matter No. 1922, as amended.

¹ Ong Ching v. Ramolete, 51 SCRA 13 (1973); see also Flores v. Zurbido, 37 Phil. 746 (1918), Dirigo v. Biranya, 17 SCRA 840 (1966), Magpayo v. Court of Appeals, 61 SCRA 115 (1974)



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APPROVED BY:

MCLE GOVERNING BOARD

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Member

Pasig City, December 3, 2014