

SPEECH DELIVERED BY ~~APR 14 1956~~ JUSTICE
SABINO PADILLA AT THE OATH TAKING
CEREMONIES OF THE 1953 SUCCESSFUL
BAR CANDIDATES ON 18 JANUARY 1954

Members of the Bar:

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Examiners goes the Court's appreciation for the splendid work done. To the new Members of the Bar go the congratulations of the Court.

The taking of oath on this solemn occasion has made you officers of the Court. It is a milestone in your life. It is portentous. It may mean success or failure. It lies in your hands to make it a success. Your success would depend upon your efforts to make yourself worthy of the profession you have embraced. The successful completion of your studies, your passing the examinations and admission to the bar mark only the beginning of your struggle for success. What really and actually means is that you have to work harder, honestly, conscientiously and continuously, if you expect to succeed in our chosen profession. Your admission to the bar is a sort of a degree that enables you to pursue advanced studies. A lawyer's preparation is like that of a scholar in the college of liberal arts who, after finishing the college courses, may pursue professional studies. But the lawyer's degree is, of course, on a higher plane, because he may branch out in the university of practical life into different fields of human endeavor, for law permeates, influences and controls every human activity. So that those who view with apprehension the ever increasing number of lawyers should not be alarmed, because not all those who have been admitted to the bar are to practice law. They may venture into diverse fields of human endeavor and their legal background is a good foundation which enables them to perform more efficiently and successfully their duties and functions. In fact, a lawyer is better prepared to assume greater and more complicated responsibilities.

Learned men have considered noble the profession of a lawyer. It is so when in the practice of his profession he is inspired by lofty and noble ideals.

On occasions like this it seems customary and proper to give an advice to the neophytes. There is no better advice than to follow what in the oath you have solemnly declared, undertaken and promised to do. Your oath is a solemn profession of faith to God by which you have irrevocably undertaken and promised to owe and maintain allegiance to your Republic; to support its Constitution and obey the laws and the legal orders of the duly constituted authorities. That is your duty to the Government. You have vowed to do no falsehood nor consent to the doing of any in court; not to promote wittingly or willingly any groundless, false or unlawful suit nor give aid nor consent to the same. That is your duty to the courts. You have promised to delay no man for money or malice, to conduct yourself as a lawyer according to the best of your knowledge and judgment with all good fidelity to the courts and to your clients. You have made these commitments freely and voluntarily without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. And as a fitting climax to all these undertakings and promises you have asked, prayed and invoked the help of God so that you may fulfill them. I cannot think of a more sublime act than the oath you have just taken. You have made it to the Supreme Court of the Republic as the lawful and legitimate representative of God. Fulfillment by you of the promises made in the oath would spell success. A violation of any of them would bring about and result in failure. May the Almighty God guide you in your efforts to fulfill them.

A good suggestion would be to have this oath you have just taken framed and have it before you in your bedroom or study room. After reciting your daily prayers and before you start the day's grind, you should read your oath and ponder on its significance. If you realize what that oath means and try to live up to it, then none of you would fail.

The Court wishes you all Godspeed.
Manila, 18 January 1954.