



ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

Clinical Legal
Education Program



CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Bridging Justice, Empowering Communities





Bridging justice, empowering communities: The Clinical Legal Education Program of Isabela State University College of Law

INTRODUCTION

On June 25, 2019, the Supreme Court *en banc* promulgated Administrative Matter No. 19-03-24-SC to provide guidelines for Law Student Practice in the country in order to ensure access to justice of the marginalized sectors, enhance learning opportunities of law students, instill among them the value of legal professional social responsibility and prepare them for the practice of law. Pursuant to the rule on Law Student Practice, Juris Doctor students of Isabela State University College of Law have secured certification and have taken their oath as law student practitioners which allow them, under the guidance and supervision of a bona fide member of the Bar, for externship or to perform legal work for the poor and marginalized sectors as well as the promotion of social justice and public interest.

The Rule on Law Student Practice likewise mandates all law schools in the Philippines to adopt and develop a Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) in order to enhance, improve and streamline law student practice with the ultimate goal of producing practice-ready lawyers. CLEP is an experiential, interactive and reflective program that aims to provide law students with practical knowledge, skills and values necessary for the application of the law, delivery of legal services and promotion of social justice and public interest, especially to the marginalized, while inculcating in the students the values of ethical lawyering and public service.

Before law students are permitted to engage in any of the activities under the CLEP, they must secure certification which are categorized as Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 certification is given to law students who have successfully completed their first year law courses. Level 2 certification, on the other hand, are granted to law students who are enrolled for the second semester of their third year law courses. Those granted with Level 1 certification are allowed to carry out legal activities such as conducting interview of prospective client, giving legal advice, negotiating for and



on behalf of the client, drafting legal documents such as affidavits, compromise agreements, contracts, demand letter, position papers, and the like, representing eligible parties before quasi-judicial or administrative bodies, providing public legal orientation, and assisting in public interest advocacies for policy formulation and implementation.

Those accredited under Level 2 certification, on the other hand, are permitted to perform, on top of those allowed under Level 1 certification, legal activities such as to assist in the taking of depositions and/or preparing judicial affidavits of witnesses, appear on behalf of the client at any stage of the proceedings or trial, before any court, quasi-judicial or administrative body, in criminal cases, subject to the provisions of Section 5, Rule 110 of the Rules of Court, appear on behalf of a government agency in the prosecution of criminal actions, and in appealed cases, and to prepare the pleadings required in the case.

Isabela State University College of Law - Cauayan City adhered to the mandate and the provisions of the Rule on Law Student Practice by establishing the Clinical Legal Education Program and forging a Memorandum of Agreement with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Isabela Chapter. It has also entered into informal partnership with other institutions providing free legal aid such as the Public Attorney's Office Cauayan City, Isabela District.

CLEP and access to justice

Access to justice has been closely linked with other imperatives such as the rule of law and sustainable development goals. It has also become a vital part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mandate to reduce poverty and strengthen democratic governance. Within the broad context of justice reform, UNDP's specific niche lies in supporting justice and related systems so that they work for those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalized (UNDP, 2013). The concept of access to justice is said to be expansive that it covers, among others, legal promotion or educating the public about their rights, entitlements, obligations and responsibilities as well as the avoidance, management and adjudication of disputes.



The American Bar Association (ABA, 2012) has also identified six elements of access to justice, namely (1) legal framework, (2) legal knowledge, (3) legal advice and representation, (4) access to a justice institution, (5) fair procedure and (6) enforceable decision.

Since the CLEP covers the important components of access to justice such as but not limited to provision of free legal representation, counseling and assistance, access to justice institutions and legal education promotion, the program helps address the concern for enhanced access to justice for the poor, underprivileged and marginalized.

The legal outreach and its significance

The general goal of the legal outreach is to legally empower local communities, especially the **students from low-income families**, by making justice more accessible to them while in the process continue to uphold the principles of social justice, rule of law, and humanity.

Legal outreach, which includes legal information dissemination and giving of free legal advice, were conducted to increase local awareness on existing laws in order to prevent violation of their rights and in order to learn about legal remedies in case of breach of their rights. The laws usually discussed are those that affects them in their everyday lives and these are diligently and enthusiastically presented in the local vernacular to ensure greater comprehension and understanding.

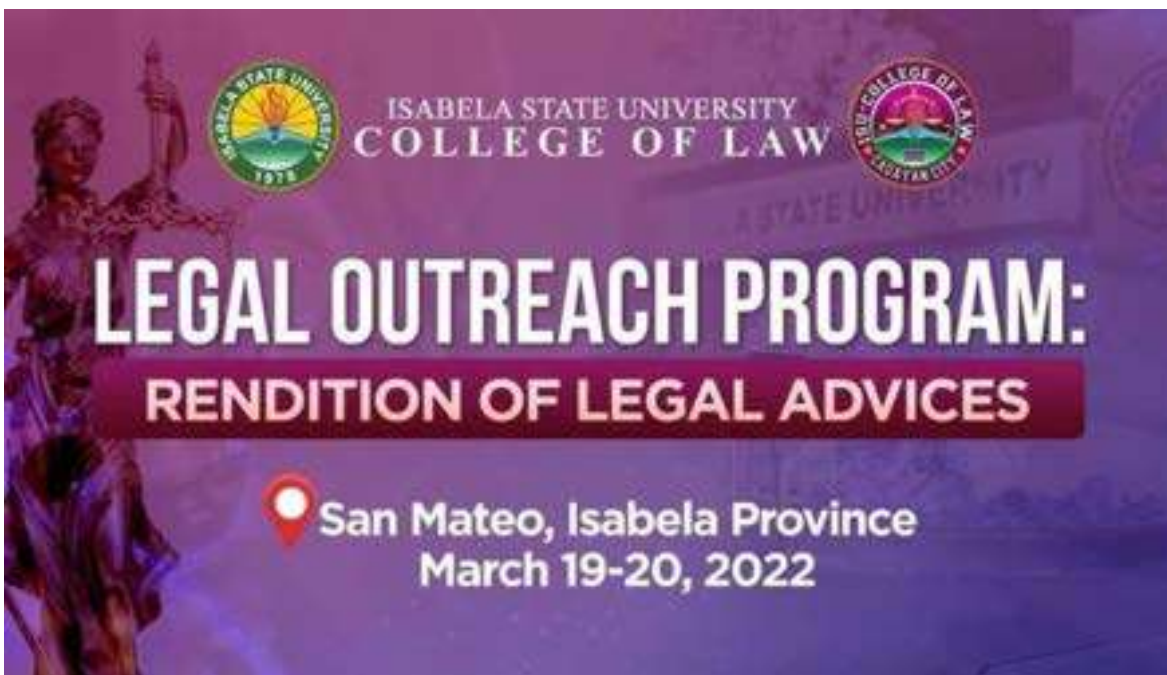
Legal outreach carried out by law student practitioners also include the preparation and drafting of legal documents, submission of pleadings and appearance in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies for and on behalf of indigent clients especially those that cannot be represented by the Public Attorney's Office or the Integrated Bar of the Philippines dues to conflict of interest. Accredited law student practitioners are likewise permitted to conduct mediation and conciliation proceedings in an effort to convince the parties to enter into an amicable settlement and in the process thwart or avert a tedious, stressful and expensive legal proceeding. All of these activities are carried out in the presence and under the guidance of a supervising lawyer who is a bona fide member of the Bar.



Isabela State University College of Law, through its Clinical Legal Education Program, innovated and established several legal outreach programs to cater these needs and demands of the people in the community and serve legal principles along with community leaders and law student practitioners.

The law student practitioners of ISU College of Law have conducted legal outreach activities in the municipalities of Dinapigue, San Mateo, Alicia, Echague, Benito Soliven, Reina Mercedes and the cities of Ilagan and Cauayan. Aside from conducting lectures and providing free legal representation and counseling, the program also developed legal information materials.

The Legal Outreach Activities

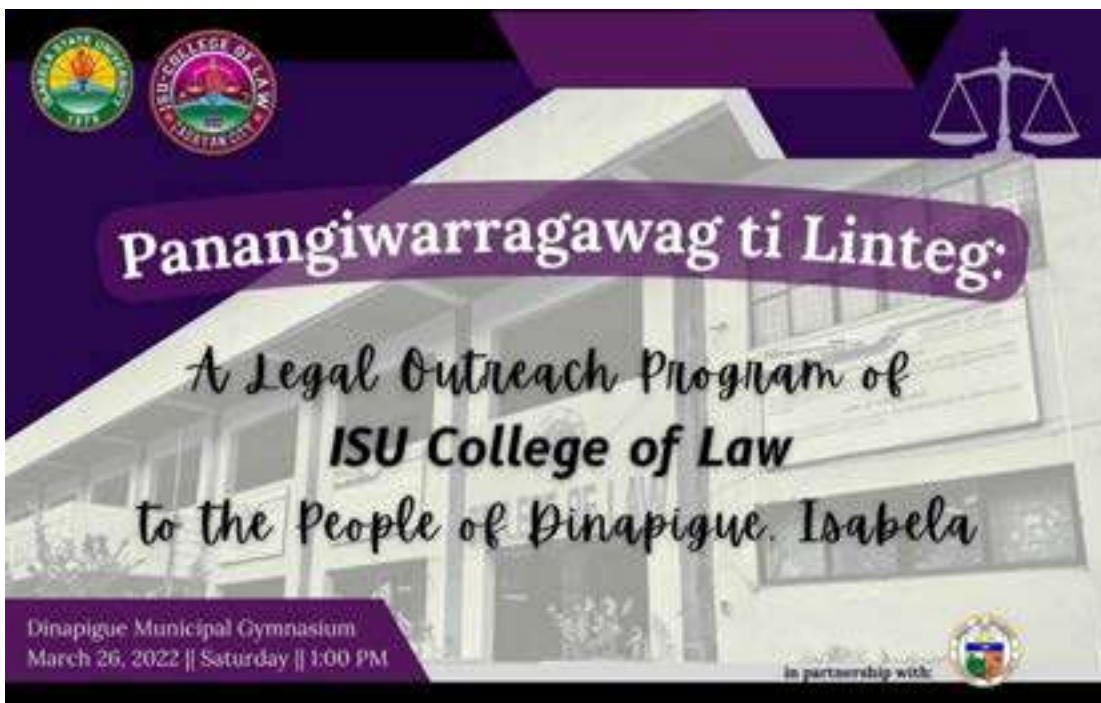


The first legal outreach activity that was carried out under the CLEP was the rendition of legal advice to the residents of San Mateo, Isabela. The two-day legal outreach was also attended by some law professors of ISU College of Law. Aside from supervising the law students in performing legal activities that were permitted pursuant to the accreditation they obtained, the law professors also interviewed walk-in clients and promptly provided legal counseling and advice.

Following the success of their first legal aid activity, the law student practitioners brought their free legal services in Dinapigue, Isabela with another round of legal information dissemination and legal counseling in partnership with the



Local Government of Dinapigue, Isabela. Dubbed as *Panangiwarragwag iti Linteg* (Dissemination of the Law), the legal outreach program includes a discussion on the Frequently Asked Questions on the salient features of *Katarungang Pambarangay* Law with particular stress on its importance for communities which are very distant from the courts. The lecture was then followed by the grant of legal counseling to local residents with legal predicaments.



Bannering the theme “*Boses ng Naaapi, huwag ipagsantabi*” ISU CLEP also went to barangay Babaran in Echague, Isabela for another round of free legal information dissemination and free legal consultation. A sizeable number of participants also attended the one-day legal outreach activity.





In its desire to make justice more accessible to the people, especially those who live in remote barangays, ISU CLEP also rendered a legal outreach program in barangay Andabuen, Benito Soliven, Isabela with the theme: *“Tindig, Tugon: Hustisya at Serbisyo Publiko sa Hamon ng Mapagbagong Panahon.”* The outreach activity, which includes, among others, a lecture on the laws protecting women and children as well as the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and the rendition of free legal counseling was likewise attended by residents of the adjacent barangays.

Isabela State University
COLLEGE OF LAW
Clinical Legal Education Program

LEGAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Theme: *“Tindig, Tugon: Hustisya at Serbisyo Publiko sa Hamon ng Mapagbagong Panahon”*

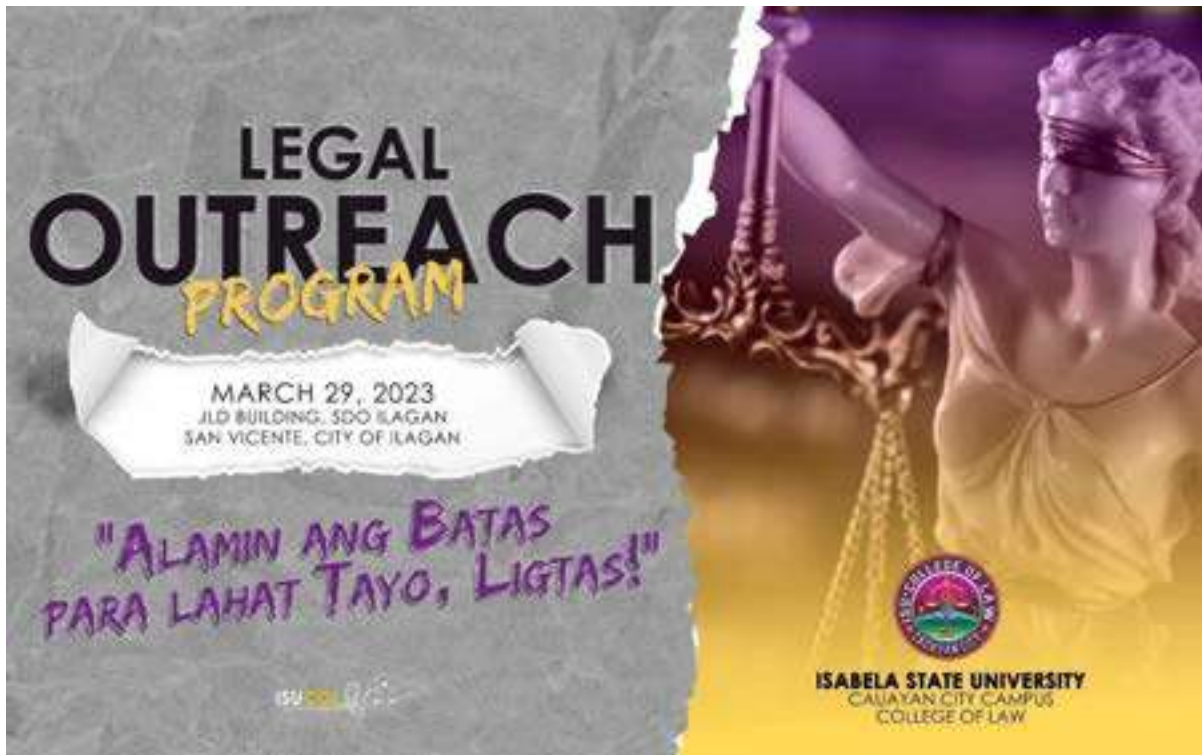
Forest Region, Benito Soliven, Isabela
Venue: Barangay Andabuen Community Center
June 4, 2022 | Saturday

In partnership with
MUNICIPALITY OF BENITO SOLIVEN

ISU CLEP also partnered with the City Government of Ilagan, Isabela and the office of the schools division superintendent for the conduct of free legal information dissemination on laws and policies for the protection of children such as, among others, the Safe Spaces Act, Anti-Child Bullying, Anti-Photo and Video Voyeursim, and anti-child abuse law. The legal outreach was attended by high school students coming from Isabela National High School, Manaring Integrated School, Alibagu National High School, Isabela School of Arts and Trade – Main, Ilagan West National High School and Isabela School of Arts and Trade – Annex.



The legal outreach activity in Ilagan City which was themed: *"Alamin ang batas, para lahat tayo, ligtas"* culminated with the taking of oath and mass signing of panunumpa to put an end to bullying in school.



With the theme "End indifference, Make a Difference", the ISU CLEP also went to Alicia, Isabela to impart legal knowledge on recent legislations particularly laws that seek to protect children. The CLEP legal outreach was held at Alicia National High School in Paddad, Alicia, Isabela.





In Cauayan City, the legal information dissemination was conducted in partnership with PAO Cauayan City at Linglingay National High School. It was attended by a total of 50 students and teachers, 29 of whom are female while 21 are male. The topics discussed include laws for the Special Protection of Children Against Abuses and Discrimination the new Anti-Rape Law, Safe Spaces Act, Updates on the law on Anti-Violence against Women and their Children and the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, as amended.



The following Public Attorneys served as resource speakers for the legal outreach in Linglingay, Cauayan City, Isabela:



Atty. GIL P. VILORIA, JR.
District Public Attorney
PAO Cauayan City District



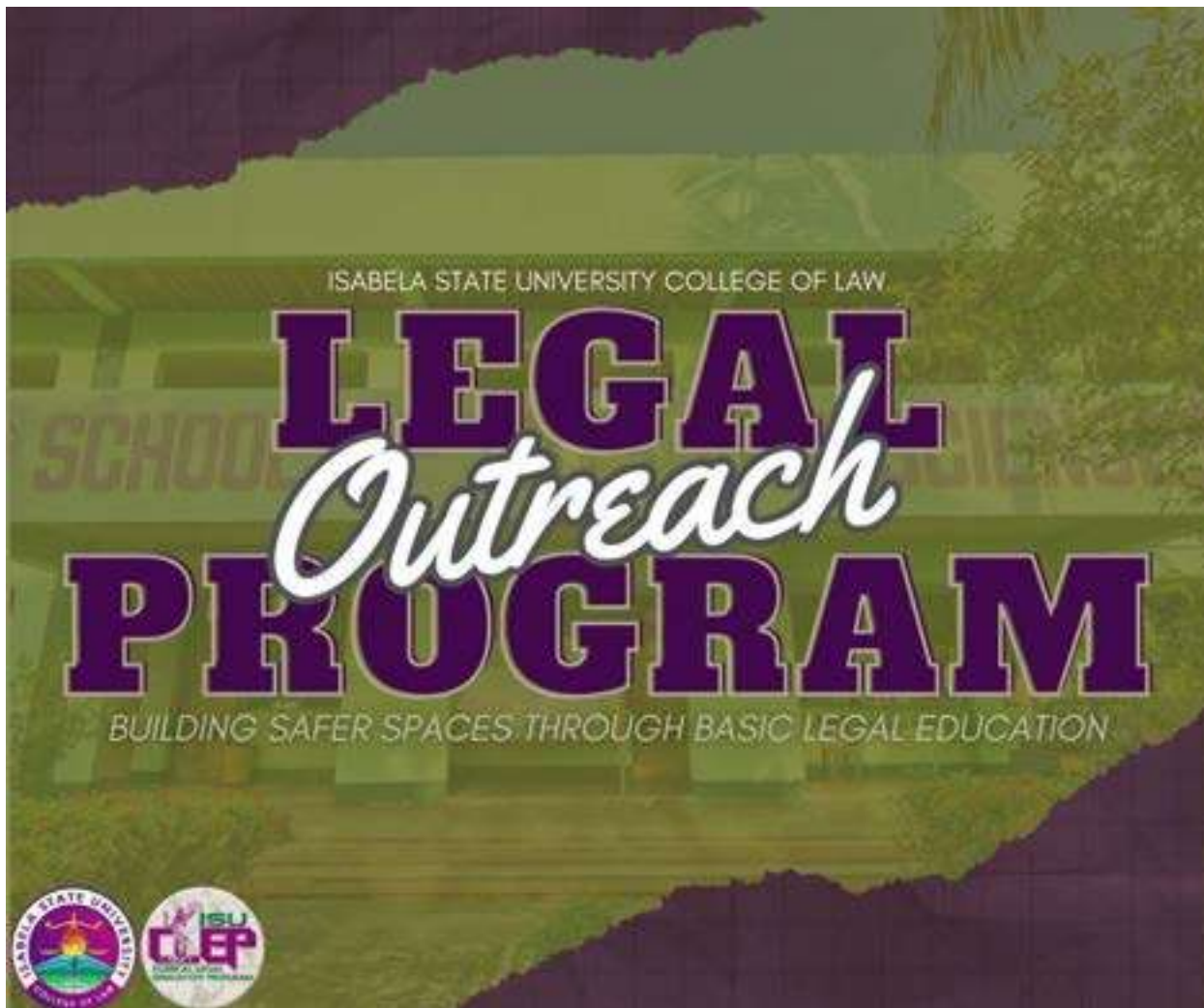
Atty. ANGELITO EMMANUEL V. RAMIREZ
Public Attorney II
PAO Cauayan City District



Atty. MARIE KRIS C. MADRIAGA
Public Attorney II
PAO Cauayan City District



The latest round of legal outreach activity of ISU CLEP was held last October 4, 2023 for the junior and senior high school students of Reina Mercedes Vocational and Industrial School (RMVIS) in Reina Mercedes, Isabela with the theme: “Building safer spaces through basic legal education.”



Carrying the advocacy of building safer spaces through basic legal education, the law student practitioners discussed various laws such as Republic Act No. RA 11313 or the Anti-Bastos Law, RA 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, RA 9995 or the Anti-Voyeurism Act, RA 10627 or the Anti-Bullying Act, RA 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act, and the RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

In addition to the discussions, legal situations, concerns, and clarifications from the participants were also addressed by the law student practitioners. The symposium was attended and participated by 130 student-leaders, members of the faculty and school staff of RMVIS.

ISU CLEP IN ACTION

a. Benito Soliven, Isabela



The law student practitioners, of ISU – Clinical Legal Education Program together with their supervising lawyers, Atty. Paul Vincent R. Mauricio and Atty. Carina Pajarillo had photo opportunity with the PNP personnel during the legal outreach in Benito Soliven, Isabela.



Distribution of handouts for the Katarungnag Pambarangay Law, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children and the Bawal Bastos Law to the participants.



Participants from the different barangays of the forest region of the Municipality of Benito Soliven, Isabela arrived at Barangay Andabuen Community Center and lined up for the registration.



Official of Barangay Andabuen with the Local Youth Development Officer of Benito Soliven, Mr. Kristian B. Viernes, warmly welcomed the team and extended their gratitude for being the chosen beneficiary of the Legal Outreach Program.



Atty. Paul Vincent R. Mauricio and Atty. Carina Pajarillo, the supervising lawyers of ISU-CLEP, discussed the rationale and purpose of the legal outreach program.



Marvin V. Baculi and Mark Anthony S. Bulusan, Law Student Practitioners, discussed the frequently asked questions and salient provisions on the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and facilitated the open forum.



Participants actively joined the discussion and asked legal questions during the open forum.



The law student practitioners, assisted by Atty. Paul Vincent Mauricio, the supervising lawyer, willingly answered the questions asked by the participants.



Photo opportunities with the participants after the successful conduct of the legal outreach in Benito Soliven.



As part of the Legal Outreach Program, the law student practitioner, rendered a free legal consultation which was availed by the participants.

b. San Mateo, Isabela



The law student practitioners of ISU CLEP posing for a photo opportunity with their supervising lawyer Atty. Paul Vincent Mauricio (top photo), Public Prosecutor Ferdinand D. Ercilla and former Board Member Atty. Randy Areola (bottom photo), all professors of ISU College of Law, during the rendition of free legal clinic in San Mateo, Isabela.

c. Alicia, Isabela







Isabela State University
College of Law

LEGAL OUTREACH

Theme: "End Indifference,
Make a Difference."

- RA 10627 Anti-Bullying Act
- RA 11313 The Safe Spaces Act
- RA 11930 Anti-Online Abuse Act
- RA 9995 Anti-Voyeurism Act

Made possible with the help of our partners:



Special thanks to:

Judge Lorenabeth T. Ucol
Ally. Reina Consorcia M. Santos
Ally. Analou T. Villezta
Ally. Manuel A. Fernandez
CP Simangan Law Office
Ally. Michael Angelo J. Pico
Ally. Lyndon F. Duarte



d. Cauayan City, Isabela



The law student practitioners of ISU – Clinical Legal Education Program together with the lawyers of the Public Attorney’s Office – Cauayan City, Atty. Gil P. Vilorias, Jr. - District Public Attorney, Atty. Angelito Emmanuel V. Ramirez - Public Attorney II, and Atty. Marie Kris C. Madriaga - Public Attorney II., and the faculty and students of Linglingay National High School.



Atty. Gil P. Vilorio Jr, District Public Attorney of Public Attorney's Office Cauayan City discussed the salient provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act as amended. He cleverly entitled his presentation as *"Batas para sa mga batang may suliranin sa batas."*



Atty. Angelito Emmanuel Ramirez, Public Attorney II of PAO Cauayan City District also shared his legal knowledge and expertise on the laws and policies for the protection of children.



Atty. Marie Kris C. Madriaga of PAO Cauayan City, Isabela thressed out the details of the Safe Spaces Act, also known as the Bawal Bastos Law.



Students of Linglingay National High School actively participated in the Open Forum and Legal Counselling. The resource speakers answered satisfactorily the queries of the participants and explained further the laws related thereto.

e. Reina Mercedes, Isabela





SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISU CLEP AND THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES – ISABELA CHAPTER



PRODUCTION OF LEGAL INFORMATION MATERIALS

Katarungang Pambarangay: Konsepto, Layunin, at mga Legal na Basehan

ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ano ang Katarungang Pambarangay?

Ang Katarungang Pambarangay ay isang Sistema nang mayroon na pangangako ng hustiya sa bawat barangay upang maiwasan ang mga hindiwalang pamamagitan ng mediation, conciliation o arbitration ng mga kasalanan sa barangay na hindi na binabawalan pang dumaloy sa korte.

Ang sistema ng Katarungang Pambarangay ay makatuturing na isang tradisyonal na paraan ng paghahati-hati ng mga hindiwalang kasalanan ng Pilapinat. Ito ay itinatagil ng ginagawa nitula sa paraan ng mga tribu, angkan, pamilya at nroing paratong wala pang organisang publiko lokal ng barangay.

Dahil dito, ang Presidential Decree 1508PO 1508/0 Katarungang Pambarangay Law ay ipinatigay noong Hunyo 11, 1978 at haggang apatibat damon noong Disyembre 20, 1978. Ang PD 1508 ay haggang pagkaka sa maitatagil ng mga Pilapinat na ayonin ang hibaan o hindi pagkakaibindihan ng bawat isa sa barangay sa pamamagitan ng aktibive settlement na ayang damon upang makapagpal ang hustiya na pangangako ng hustiya o katarungang.

Sino ang maaring maging partido sa Sistema ng Katarungang Pambarangay?

Mga indibidwal na tao lamang at hindi ang tinatagil na juridikal persona gaya ng korporasyon, partnership, estate, etc. ang maaring maging partido sa sistema ng Katarungang Pambarangay. Ito ay napapan sa ipinatigay ng batas na personal na paghahati-hati sa pagpapal ng mga partido upang mapagpapal ang hibaan sa pagpapal. Hindi sinapapan ng batas na binabawalan lamang ang hibaan sa barangay.

Ano ang mga legal na basehan sa pagpapatupad ng Katarungang Pambarangay?

SINO-SINO ANG MGA SAKOP SA PROSESO NG KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY?

KONSEPTO NG KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY

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**ISU Legal Clinic
Meet Our Team!**

JUNS DOCTOR STUDENTS

<p>SARAH AQUINO MARIO ASIS, JR. MARVIN BACULI NEIL DAVIS BULAN KIM FRANZ BULUSAN MARK ANTHONY BULUSAN ARVEE BUTAC JOSHUA CABACCAN EDWARD JOHN CRUZ</p>	<p>JANE BUTH ESTADO FRANCIS FRANCISCO SHIRLEY EMILY GALAMCAN-DEYES JADE DELA CRUZ DENIMAR LUYUN JANUS OCAJPO JOSHUA JERICHO OCAJPO REYER MARK PASCUAL JEFFREY VELASCO</p>
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Law Student Practitioners' Insights

One of the most exciting parts of the program is the one-on-one interview with the participants. One lady who is a part of the Barangay's Lupong Tagapamayapa asked us to whether assist a woman who came into them but is not a resident of their barangay, the woman claimed she is just a domicile on their barangay and that his partner is the one residing and that his partner is abusing her. We advised the lady Tagapamayapa that yes, they should attend, through the barangay's VAWC desk, to the legal needs of the abused woman because it is within their jurisdiction since the alleged incident happened to their barangay.

Learning at school has really a wide difference between learning from experience. Listening to the lady's concerns and attending her legal needs is quite an experience. Helping the needs of others is truly one of the most amazing things I experienced in my journey to the legal profession. This inspires me to study more and ignite once again my desire to become an Attorney. For God's glory, I will be one.

SARAH B. AQUINO
Law Student Practitioner

As Law Student Practitioners at the Isabela State University College of Law's Legal Aid Clinic, we are being trained and prepared to practice law while also learning the value of *pro bono* culture in addressing the legal needs of society's poor, deprived, vulnerable, and oppressed. The Legal Outreach program is an excellent way to communicate with those in need of free legal assistance. Simultaneously training and honing the skills and knowledge of Law Student Practitioners, particularly with regard to interacting with prospective clients.

MARIO D. ASIS, JR.
Law Student Practitioner

I would like to say that the outreach made my burning desire to be a lawyer stronger than it was. Seeing how people need the legal knowledge that we have to fight injustice is heartwarming. Every time that I am unmotivated to study I always remember the people that I met in Andabuen. The reason why I study law is not just only now for me and my family. It is also I must say for my fellow countrymen.

MARVIN V. BACULI
Law Student Practitioner



“In the name of selfless service”, a quotation that always reminds me to extend help especially to the least, the last and the lost without expecting anything in return. As we traversed this journey towards our dream of becoming a lawyer, an opportunity was given unto us, enabling us to render legal services and apply our legal knowledge to help those under the marginalized who cry for help seeking justice.

This program became an eye-opener for me, for there are a lot of our fellow Filipinos from the far-flung areas of the province that cannot access legal services to address their concerns. As we interviewed some of the residents of the Barangay who sought for legal advice, their concerns had already existed in the past years but because of lack of opportunity, many of it were still left unresolved. This ignited more my desire to finish this degree and give service to my fellow Filipinos. Likewise, this program has given us a new corner, away from our books and recitations, but still an avenue for us in enhancing our knowledge in the application of laws. This program became an avenue for us to share our knowledge of the law and had stilled to us the value of service and humanity.

MARK ANTHONY S. BULUSAN
Law Student Practitioner

The general goal of the Legal Outreach is to uphold the principles of social justice, rule of law, and humanity by providing legal service to the marginalized, underprivileged, and disenfranchised members of the community. We were able to discuss the importance and salient features of Katarungnang Pambarangay law and not only did we impart our knowledge unto our participants but we also expanded our own knowledge as they gave us insights on how things are done in the real world setting and we got to critically think on how to implement what we learn in our classrooms about the law and relate it to the real world setting, Another part of our outreach was the “free legal advice” in which we heard about the legal problems that our participants encounter. This segment really helps our team and myself on how to use the knowledge that we have acquired through reading our text books and also the knowledge that is imparted to us by our law professors as well as the jurisprudence that we learn from the cases assigned to us and correlate it to the problem that our participants faces.

To summarize I consider our legal outreach program to be a huge success as we not only help our community but we also gained knowledge which will surely help my team and I going forward as we continue our journey in the study of law.

JOSHUA C. CABACCAN
Law Student Practitioner



Primarily, I was able to examine the areas in law where I need improvement which may only be achieved should I establish a more effective study habit. I felt the need of knowing the implication and application of the provisions of law that I read and learn every day in real-life cases. Aside from preparing for the bar examinations, there should be more a need to arm myself into becoming an excellent lawyer for the country and its people.

ARVEE M. BUTAC
Law Student Practitioner

This activity allowed ourselves to slowly ease into the so-called “legal profession”, despite the uncertainty on how to equip ourselves in learning the law- in order to apply it correctly- or the unfamiliarity of not knowing what differences we can make in real time by imparting our knowledge about it, was an experience we’ll surely remember. An apt reflection that this is the time to discover more of the profession and exploring more of our options in working towards an equitable justice system.

JADE AIZEL A. DELA CRUZ
Law Student Practitioner

I am really grateful for the opportunity to participate in the legal outreach. It is an amazing platform that has given me a hands-on experience on how it feels to be a practicing lawyer for a day. Although we are not lawyers yet, it feels like we are because we’ve already tried entertaining clients. It gave us an opportunity to apply what we’ve learned in law school. Although we are not yet that confident in talking to the clients, we’ve learned a lot just by listening to them and experiencing giving legal advice. Just as our adviser said, these are things we cannot learn in law school. And I am really thankful that I was able to experience it by this activity.

JANE RUTH L. ESTADO
Law Student Practitioner

With this, I also learned to appreciate things around me, especially God and countless blessings that I did not pay much attention to before. It also taught me that life is not all about receiving, but also about giving. The outreach program made me realize that somehow in some simple ways, we could bring hope to others. We could make a meaningful day by doing good deeds for other people. I sincerely hope that this is a continuing thing, not only for the sake of requirements but to really bring justice and hope to the community.

MARLON LEMUEL A. ALMARIO



Legal Aid program, as commonly known, serves as a tool to help people in their legal concerns, especially those indigent, aggrieved and uneducated. Now, I am glad that Legal Practice I through this Legal Aid Program, helped not only typical clients on their legal concern which ordinarily, what legal education addressees, but to a greater extent and subjectively, the activity Legal Aid Program helped a law student like me to realize a broader and wider idea and perspective as how important legal education is to be considered nowadays. I am very hopeful that what I felt on that day I served the people who have less in life, will be my root and my rope in law school whenever I feel unmotivated.

ADRIENNE N. AQUINO
Law Student Practitioner

The outreach program made me realize that somehow in some simple ways, we could bring help and happiness to others. Clinical programs can expose student to what actually happens in the practice of law. Often, it is the first time that we, students, can see the impact of a client's circumstances, such as lack of financial resources, a lack of cultural and linguistic knowledge, or simply a lack of knowledge of the law and how it operates. Clinics can shift the focus from the law and the legal system, which students examine in law school, to its effect on the client.

JEAN LORRAINE L. CARREON
Law Student Practitioner

This experience has instilled in my mind the responsibility that we actually have as regards the community. It made me realize the need of someone who would be bold enough and selflessly stand up for the voiceless members of the society and could effectively fight for their rights. It made me become more passionate towards the study of law, for I know that through this I can be an effective instrument to promote truth, fairness, and justice for everyone.

ALYZZA C. FAJARDO
Law Student Practitioner

Lastly, I realized that being a lawyer is as exciting as it is gratifying. I may not be an outgoing person, but helping others is at the core of my being. I enjoy moments that I make someone smile or when I impart nuggets of wisdom to some friends in need. This, to me, is the landscape of the legal profession. Because of this, I am now more determined than ever to pursue this career path and hopefully the universe sees it that way too.

ABDEL SANIEL H. NASSER



A legal program is a total integration of the community and the legal system. Outreach programs benefit not only the community but also the legal system and the proper administration of justice. Outreach activities foster learning and application of knowledge to legal studies, community service, a sense of responsibility toward unreached communities, advancement of both legal foundation and protection of people's rights in the community; reflection and feedback on the experience to improve and sustain the process; and community partnership.

Legal knowledge is pervasive, and it must be spread for information dissemination, particularly among the less fortunate members of society. Every member of society should have the basic understanding of law.

JOMEL L. GALIZA
Law Student Practitioner

The process of the clinic is only effective and transformative once one lets go of the inhibitions and fears that seem prevalent throughout the law school setting. I almost allowed myself to turn back with the current, but fortunately my interactions with strong and dedicated people this semester allowed me to rediscover my own strengths and assert myself as a lawyer one day. In my mind there is nothing worse than the indifference of those who have the opportunity and potential to do good things but consciously refuse to do so. For true bravery is exemplified less in battle, where one is spurred into action by training, discipline, and instinct, than it is by people who refuse to stand by and remain indifferent in the midst of injustice. At the beginning of the semester, I described the eradication of fear as one of my ultimate goals in social justice lawyering, I foreseen myself to be in one day. After this semester however, I have learned that such a clear vision can only be gained by consciously identifying and working through my own fears. While the entire experience may not have been easy, this semester with the clinic was evolutionary for me as a law student.

MARJORIE R. LUNA
Law Student Practitioner

The said activity is a day filled with new learnings and new experiences for we had interviewed different clients from different walks of life, consulting legal matters regarding their life as well as their property. As a law student practitioner, the said activity gave an impression to me that I must be ready at all times and I must give the correct advice nor solution to their kilometric narration of their legal concerns.

Lastly, the legal outreach activity made me realize that we can be beacons of hope to those in need of justice for we provided relief to their issues and concerns. The said activity is also an opportunity for us to have a close interaction with our law professors, namely Atty. Paul Vincent Maurico, Atty. Carina Pajarillo and Atty. Randolph Arreola to discuss matters that we cannot answer by our own selves, and this is also the time for us to develop camaraderie between and among us law student practitioners.

AGNES T. PALARUAN
Law Student Practitioner



For me, it is important for law students to experience legal outreach because it helps us to understand and appreciate the real meaning of the Law and how the provisions that we have read and studied applies in the real-life situation. Legal outreach is beneficial not just for the people who needs legal advice but also to the law students because we can apply all the learnings that we have acquired in our law subjects. It is also important to stress the importance of our Constitutional rights because most people do not know these rights and I believe as future member of the legal profession it is our duty to educate the people about these rights under the Constitution and some pertinent laws like Violence Against Women and their Children, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, Anti-Bastos Law etc. because not all people understands what these laws are for, and it is our duty as legal practitioners to help them understand the law and their rights under the law.

MAHRIZ JORELLE G. REMOCAL
Law Student Practitioner

Outreach programs is not something that one should take for granted, for if you understand deeply the meaning of it, you can make a big difference in a person's life. During the days that we conducted the activity, I saw the many people who are in need of assistance because they basically do not know what to do, and others around, especially people with power take advantage of their innocence and helplessness. The activity depicted to me of how it is like if it is me in their place and asking for help, but it seems no one is bothered to extend a hand, leaving them no choice but to surrender their property and even themselves to those in power. Most cases that we encountered were about matters concerning land titles, and speaking verily, a lot of people will fight to the point of costing their lives to protect their interest in the property, not only for themselves but also for the sake of the next generations that will succeed them. Sadly, those who do not have the proper weapon or at least the capability to avail the needed armor shall lose in the battle. In our form of society, it is usually the poor, the impoverished and the inferior who has that status, that is why to lessen their burden of being poor, we should grace them with access to proper armory. We, as privileged should take initiative to break the barriers that hinders their access to tools that would aid them in their battles. In this way, they can have an equal chance of winning their claims.

NOREEN ANGELIQUE B. RINION
Law Student Practitioner



General Reflection

Legal Education provides opportunities for lifelong learning. Lawyers are clothed with zeal and dressed with humility. As law student practitioners, the spirit of service and public duties have ignited us to continuously embody the elements of justice and public service.

Legal Outreach as a specific contributory factor in the development and establishment of our names as lawyers honed our skills and prowess in the plight of human reformation and justice restoration for the improvement of socio-political and cultural heritage of the country. The activity emphasized the wide disparity between the means of the rich and poor in relation to the goal of establishing a dignified vineyard of justice. The cases of the indigents were all grounded on abuse and exploitation of properties by the monstrous individuals with evil intent and machinations thereby degrading and crippling society's morale and dignity. It gave challenge to law students especially in building a character with principles sanctioned by the most ideal official of the court of the law and drawn from the vicissitudes of jurisprudence by the highly respected Supreme Court.

Finally, as stated in the case of *Calalang vs. Williams*, Social Justice is the humanization of laws and the equalization of rights and opportunities for people and of the people. As future lawyers, the challenge for social justice is underway. We came to realize that this is a fulfilling profession. There is no greater feeling in the world than to know you have helped someone overcome, or least, ease a problem. To all of us, this is exactly what we felt during this activity. We were no different than doctors. We were out there diagnosing real problems of real people, pointing them in the right direction if need be. We provided medicines in the form of legal advices, and to some extent, even personal comfort to them. We would not trade this for anything in the world. We all felt we are in the right track and that we belong in this legal profession. If anything, this activity pushed us further and forward in our desire to becoming a lawyer.

Challenges and Opportunities

A wide range of initiatives and activities are included in legal outreach that actively seek out people with legal needs. It provides limited, private legal counsel through a free outreach initiative to individuals. This program is recognized as a crucial tool for overcoming access barriers brought on by a lack of personal resources and capacity as well as those brought on by distance in order to reach marginalized or underrepresented groups.

If legal service delivery is solely dependent on clients who enter through the lawyer's "front door," it will fall short of ensuring justice for all. Assistance may not be available due to a variety of issues, including environmental, cultural, and systemic ones. Additionally, persons may be prevented from identifying and addressing their legal issues due to their personal circumstances and level of legal competence. The same groups that likely to struggle to settle their legal issues and have special



obstacles to receiving standard legal aid are those that are disadvantaged in the community. Having a legal outreach program will provide you the chance to develop aid and connect with people who might not otherwise knock on your door.

Effective legal outreach possesses a number of essential qualities and advantages. Providing legal services through an outreach style may provide a number of difficulties. Many of the components necessary for an effective legal outreach service address these difficulties. An efficient legal outreach program typically involves successful collaboration with other legal and non-legal services to meet client needs holistically. It is also accessible, adequately resourced, sustainable, and properly monitored and evaluated. Finally, it successfully engages the target client group and is tailored to their specific needs and capabilities.

There are also many potential benefits of effective legal outreach to individuals, service providers and the broader community. These include benefits from addressing legal needs, systemic advocacy, law reform, the promotion of social inclusion and service improvements.

The clients' reluctance to approach the tables for legal advice is what caused the majority of the issues we ran into, but overall, all of the law student practitioners took turns giving clients legal advice, which was very satisfying because it allowed us to fulfill the requirement for our subject matter in legal practice while also having the opportunity to serve the underprivileged.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Pursuant to the overwhelming and opportune response of the Supreme Court in revamping the Legal Curriculum, law students in the country were and will be exposed to meaningful learning opportunities in obtaining firsthand experience towards effectuating the spirit the of social justice. As a response, the whole populace of Isabela State University-College of Law worked together and designed a concrete plan in collaboration with various sectors in the community for a joint project and activity fortified by synergy, in the implementation of free legal services.

After a series of excruciating blended learning, the whole Legal Practice Class was reinvigorated upon the dissemination of the whole plan for the course. All team groups creatively imagined the possible opportunities to defend the impoverished who have experienced a ceaseless struggle of drudgery and toil. Under the dedicated leadership of Atty. Paul R. Mauricio, the class was divided into several groups who will be assisted in delivering free legal advice services in collaboration with local government units and members of the bar.



Conclusions

Foremost, the activity stimulated the law students' desire to learn more the nitty-gritty details of relevant laws reflective of real-life cases. It gave motivation to establish a better and more effective approach in their legal studies not only for the bar examinations but primarily for the people they intend to serve. In order to fight for the marginalized, law students must aspire to excellent lawyers armed with overwhelming knowledge of the law.

The activity emphasized the wide disparity between the means of the rich and poor in relation to the goal of establishing a dignified vineyard of justice. The cases of the indigents were all grounded on abuse and exploitation of properties by the monstrous individuals with evil intent and machinations thereby degrading and crippling society's morale and dignity. It gave challenge to law students especially in building a character with principles sanctioned by the most ideal official of the court of the law and drawn from the vicissitudes of jurisprudence by the highly respected Supreme Court.

The role of the Local Government is indispensable in local mobilization towards the attainment of a better society where those who have less in life will be given more in law.



Profile of the Members of the Clinical Legal Education Program



Judge Raul V. Babaran, Ret.

Dean, Isabela State University College of Law

Retired Judge Raul V Babaran is the current dean of the Isabela State University College of Law (ISU COL). Prior to becoming the Dean of the college, he was the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court in Cauayan City, Isabela.

He began his legal career as a Research Attorney at RTC Branch 24 in his hometown of Echague, Isabela. Later, he was appointed Municipal Judge in Diffun, Quirino.

A member of JCI Philippines and the Ateneo School of Law Fraternal Order of Utopia, he continues to promote law and justice in society as a member of the academe.

Dean Babaran is the proud father of four children: Joseph, Matthew, Donemar, and Ma. Rachelle. He is married to Jocelyn Bataller.

He enjoys gardening, traveling, and playing doubles tennis in his spare time.



Atty. Paul Vincent R. Mauricio, CPA

Supervising Lawyer

Atty. Paul Vincent R. Mauricio, CPA was born in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, on February 11, 1981, to parents Victor L. Mauricio and Caridad E. Roque-Mauricio. Despite being born in Metro Manila, his parents raised him in Cauayan City, Isabela. He is happily married to Sherryl S. Mauricio, with whom he has a lovely daughter named Lavigne S. Mauricio.

In 2002, he graduated from the Philippine School of Business Administration with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree and became a Certified Public Accountant. He then attended the College of Law at Isabela State University and was admitted to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in 2009.

He previously worked as a Senior Auditor for Tardecilla Verdolaga & Co., a Senior Associate Lawyer for CRC Law Firm, and a Litigation Lawyer for Planters Development Bank. He also worked as an external counsel for United Coco Planters Bank and Eastwest Bank in Region 2.

In 2014, he established the PR Mauricio and Partners Law Office, which currently has a strong track record of winning court cases and obtaining favorable decisions. He began his government career in 2016 when he was appointed as the City Legal Officer of Cauayan City, Isabela, by Mayor Bernard Faustino M. Dy. Atty. Paul Mauricio, who really had a heart for public service ran for City Councilor and fortunately got elected in 2019. He is now serving his second term as a member of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Cauayan City, Isabela, when he got re-elected in May 2022. He is the Committee Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Committee on Cooperatives.



He currently serves on the Isabela State University Board of Regents as the Alumni Sector representative. Atty. Paul is a Free and Accepted Mason of the Philippines member, as well as a member of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Cauayan and the Junior Chamber International – Cauayan Bamboo Chapter.



Atty. Carina P. Pajarillo, CPA
Supervising Lawyer

Atty. Carina P. Pajarillo, CPA, a partner at PR Mauricio and Partners Law Office since 2015, has extensive experience in banking, having worked in the industry for 19 years beginning in 2001.

She currently works as a part-time instructor at Isabela State University, where she teaches both undergraduate and law students, as well as at the University of Perpetual Help System - Isabela, and as a guest lecturer at the PNP Regional Training Center in Minante, Cauayan City.

Atty. Pajarillo is from Alicia, Isabela. She graduated from Saint Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree in 2000 and was a member of the first graduating class from Isabela State University College of Law in 2006. She was admitted to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines a year later.