



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICES  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES

*are pleased to present this*

## Plaque of Acclamation

*to*

**Mr. Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban**

**THE RENAISSANCE JURIST OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

*on the occasion of his retirement from the Court*

- For triumphing over a hardscrabble childhood through sheer industry, innate intelligence and dogged determination to conquer poverty, finishing basic and intermediate school with honors, obtaining his associate in arts *with highest honors* and his law degree *cum laude*, landing sixth in the 1960 bar examinations and, later, receiving several honorary doctoral degrees
- For treasuring the value and role of the youth in nation-building, founding and heading the National Union of Students of the Philippines, then and still the biggest organization of students in the country, proving early on that “*he could best the best from the elitist colleges and universities*”

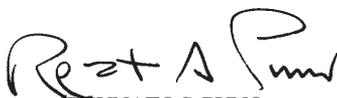
- For exhibiting leadership skills and aptitude in various capacities, “*leapfrogging the social and economic barriers of Philippine society*” by becoming a pioneer and leader in the country’s tourism industry, president of the oldest and most prestigious civic club in Asia, president of the country’s widest read newspaper, national vice-chairman and chief legal counsel of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting during the first presidential elections after the lifting of Martial Law and the restoration of democracy
- For glorifying God through service to others, from being a student Catholic leader to being among the first lay persons to participate in lawmaking in the Church as a delegate to the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines and to being named by the late Pope John Paul II to a seat in the Pontifical Council for the Laity for the 1996-2001 term
- For his unparalleled achievement in the highest court of the land, authoring around one thousand two hundred ponencias and a hundred separate opinions, not to mention the many thousand other resolutions he wrote to dispose of cases, plus a book each year, thus distinguishing himself as “*the Court’s most prolific writer bar none*”
- For the unflinching support he extended, as an associate justice, to the Court’s *Action Program for Judicial Reform* (APJR) initiated by Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., in the process internationally projecting the Philippine judiciary as a bellwether and beacon in the area of judicial reform, particularly by successfully chairing the 2005 *International Conference and Showcase on Judicial Reforms* held on November 28-30, 2005
- For his well-deserved elevation to the chief justiceship, becoming the Republic’s 21<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice, the first to be appointed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2005, upon which he vowed to lead, as in fact he actually did lead, a judiciary characterized by **independence**, **integrity**, **industry** and **intelligence**
- For being a singleminded judicial reformist who focused on fighting the four “ACID” problems corroding justice in our country: (1) limited **access** to justice by the poor; (2) **corruption**; (3) **incompetence**; and (4) **delay** in the delivery of quality judgments; and on revitalizing the legal profession by cultivating **competent** and **ethical** lawyers
- For his apt recognition of all judicial personnel as the backbone of the judiciary, granting them maximum financial and fringe benefits allowed by law and within his discretion to give as the overall head of the

Judicial Department of government; in turn asking from them only three things encapsulated in the code DHL: **dedication** to duty, **honesty** in every way, and full **loyalty** to the Supreme Court

- For his indomitable leadership of the Court through one of the most trying times in the nation's history, when it heard and promptly decided an unprecedented number of landmark cases, demonstrating his core judicial philosophy of *safeguarding the liberty and nurturing the prosperity of our people under the rule of law*, thereby imbedding this philosophy in the nation's legal lore and providing a springboard for intellectual discourse in the *Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity* hosted by the Court on October 18-20, 2006, and participated in by great thinkers, judicial leaders, bar heads, civil society stalwarts, and policymakers from all over the world

Indeed, his watch as Chief Justice ushered a judicial renaissance, during which the Court set new and loftier standards for adjudication and reform. Through his exemplary devotion to his public duties and commitment to excellence and ethics, not to mention his unique and unquenchable zest for life, wisdom, wit, grace, and good humor, he leaves behind a Supreme Court and a judiciary whose independence, integrity, credibility, and prestige have attained record heights fully recognized nationally and globally. Now, therefore, in testimony of the foregoing, we his colleagues acclaim him as the **21<sup>st</sup> Century's Renaissance Jurist**.

GIVEN at the Session Hall of the Supreme Court in the City of Manila, this sixth day of December Two Thousand and Six.



REYNATO S. PUNO  
Associate Justice



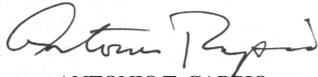
LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING  
Associate Justice



CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO  
Associate Justice



ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ  
Associate Justice



ANTONIO T. CARPIO  
Associate Justice



MA. ALICIA AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ  
Associate Justice



RENATO C. CORONA  
Associate Justice



CONCHITA CARPIO-MORALES  
Associate Justice



ROMEO J. CALLEJO, SR.  
Associate Justice



ADOLFO S. AZCUNA  
Associate Justice



DANTE O. TINGA  
Associate Justice



MINITA V. CHICO-NAZARIO  
Associate Justice



CANCIO C. GARCIA  
Associate Justice



PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.  
Associate Justice