

Judicial Education and Human Rights in the Philippines

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THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIAL ACADEMY (PHILJA) is the education arm of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. It is mandated to conduct training not only for judges and court personnel but also for those aspiring for positions in the judiciary. Taking the lead in judicial education, it has introduced courses on human rights with multidisciplinary content and techniques in its training programs.

This article outlines and expounds the various course offerings of PHILJA in the past decade focused on human rights concerns. It begins with a background on PHILJA and proceeds to discuss the programs on human rights developed at various levels of the judicial hierarchy. It concludes on a high note for the future of judicial education, not only in the Philippines but even in the region.

The Philippine Judicial Academy: Background

PHILJA was created by the Supreme Court on 12 March 1996 through the issuance of Administrative Order No. 35-96.¹ It received its mandate on 26 February 1998, through Republic Act No. 8557.² This law institutionalized PHILJA as a “training school for justices, judges, court personnel, lawyers, and aspirants to judicial posts.”³

PHILJA provides and implements a curriculum for judicial education, and conducts seminars, workshops and other training programs designed to upgrade legal knowledge, moral fitness, probity, efficiency, and capability. The Academic Council⁴ of PHILJA considers and approves the trainings, programs and activities and sets out policies relating to judicial education. PHILJA has fourteen Academic Departments,⁵ which include the Department of International Law and Human Rights Law and the Department of Special Areas of Concern. These two departments propose curricular offerings relating to international law, human rights law, women and children, environment, among others, and take part in the review and approval of academic programs and courses of PHILJA.

PHILJA includes courses in its curriculums and programs that address the latest developments in substantive and procedural law, as well as updates on technology and its possible application in the courts. It holds lectures on ethics and value formation and other special issues or areas of concern, such as problems of vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, and conducts faculty enhancement and leadership trainings. PHILJA regularly holds its core (flagship) programs⁶ that include the Pre-Judicature Program, the Judicial Career Enhancement Program, the Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Executive and Vice Executive Judges, the Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Newly Appointed Judges and Clerks of Court, and the Continuing Legal Education for Court Attorneys.

PHILJA's special focus programs⁷ are thematic in nature, focusing on new rules and current trends and developments, as well as emerging issues in particular areas of law, including human rights and international humanitarian law. The other programs of PHILJA include development programs for court personnel,⁸ alternative dispute resolution programs,⁹ convention-seminars,¹⁰ programs for quasi-judicial agencies,¹¹ discussion sessions/roundtable discussions,¹² special lectures,¹³ and international conferences.¹⁴ PHILJA also produces regular and special publications.

Human Rights Concerns

The broad range of human rights concerns in the Philippines has prompted the Supreme Court to develop new rules for application by the courts. Often, new rules emerge through a situation analysis of events confronting the courts and the society at large. One remarkable example of how the Supreme Court and PHILJA have responded to such human rights concerns is the multi-sectoral¹⁵ approach to address the phenomenons of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

In the *Helpbook on Human Rights Issues: Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances*, Dean Pacifico A. Agabin notes that “a scan of the horizon of human rights in the Philippines over the past decade shows a dark landscape brightened only by a few shafts of light at infrequent intervals.”¹⁶ He stresses that “after September 11, 2001, the world, including the Philippines, has never been the same again.”¹⁷

To address the alarming incidence of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, the Supreme Court convened on 16-17 July 2001

the National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances. During the Summit, reports showed a “steady rise on extralegal killings from 2001 to 2006”¹⁸ and “a similar rise in enforced disappearances.”¹⁹

Quoting data provided by Karapatan, an alliance of organizations that advance human rights, Dean Agabin writes that since 21 January 2001 the number of victims of extrajudicial killings reached 1,206²⁰ while that of enforced disappearances rose to two hundred and six.²¹

Dean Agabin continues:

The bleak and forlorn landscape of human rights in the Philippines has been illuminated partly by the Supreme Court in 2007. Shocked and outraged by the rising tide of extralegal killings and enforced abductions committed against political activists and journalists, the Court, after conducting the summit on the issues, promulgated the rule on the writ of amparo that took effect in October 2007.

The following year, the high tribunal approved the rule on habeas data, which empowers the courts to compel government and military officials to allow access to official documents by invoking ‘the right to truth.’²²

The convening of a national conference on human rights and the adoption of rules on writ of amparo²³ and habeas data²⁴ are not the only significant efforts of the Supreme Court and PHILJA that put human rights at the core of judicial education in the Philippines. The succeeding sections of this article describe the various courses, programs, tools, and techniques employed in the hundreds of seminar-workshops held by PHILJA.

PHILJA and Human Rights Education

Since its inception more than fifteen years ago, PHILJA has endeavored and continues to include human rights and related issues in its trainings, programs and activities²⁵—from the general topic of human rights, to specific or particular rights of indigenous peoples, women, children, even economic, social and cultural rights, to cite a few, to the intertwined issues of human rights and the environment, to national laws and international human rights treaties and covenants.

PHILJA's Core Programs

PHILJA has six core or flagship programs. The Pre-Judicature Program provides initial training to aspirants for judicial positions, as mandated by the PHILJA's statutory and administrative charters. Upon appointment to the judiciary, judges undergo an Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Newly Appointed Judges to prepare them for assumption of office and the discharge of their duties. The Orientation Seminar-Workshop for Executive Judges and Vice Executive Judges is an update on laws, legal developments and issuances that would enhance their capability to discharge their administrative functions. For judges and judicial personnel who have been in the judicial service for some time, they undergo the Judicial Career Enhancement Program (now the Regional Judicial Career Enhancement Program). Newly appointed clerks of court are also required to attend the Orientation Seminar-Workshop. Finally, the Academy also has a Continuing Legal Education for Court Attorneys that aims to meet the professional enhancement needs of Court Attorneys of the Supreme Court and Appellate Courts.

The following human rights topics were invariably discussed in these programs: Human Rights: International and Domestic Standards; Developments in International Law, International Law and Domestic Enforcement and Implementation; International Covenants and Domestic Legislation; Human Rights and Social Context and Economic Issues; Human Rights, Gender Sensitivity and the Protection of Children; Women's and Children's Rights; Indigenous Peoples Rights; Human Rights Law and Philippine Jurisprudence; Human Rights and the Courts: Social Context Issues and the Vulnerable Sectors; Human Rights and the Constitution; Humanizing the Law; Human Rights and Care for Disadvantaged Sectors; Violence Against Women and Children; and International Criminal Courts and the International Criminal Law.

Special Focus Programs

As mentioned earlier, PHILJA's special focus programs are thematic in nature, focusing on new rules and current trends and developments, as well as emerging issues in particular areas of law, including human rights and international humanitarian law. These programs cater to judges, court personnel and other stakeholders.

Human Rights Law

As early as 2001, PHILJA has held the Philippine Judiciary Workshop on Realizing Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights to understand the substance, process and the applicability of international norms on economic, social and cultural rights; and to understand the role of the Judiciary in the application of treaty obligations on ESC rights within the context of the Philippine Constitution.

Judicial Seminars on Indigenous Peoples Rights Act were held in 2002 to relate the key provisions of the law to state policy and objectives, to solve problems relative to indigenous peoples rights, and to resolve claims of indigenous peoples under the law.

The Challenge of Terrorism and the Defense of Human Rights seminar was held in 2002 to exemplify the perspective towards the balancing of equities: human rights and terrorism and to discuss and interpret human rights and terrorism provisions in the Philippine Constitution, international documents and covenants.

The Seven-Day Course on International Criminal Law for Philippine Justices and Judges in the Netherlands was developed in 2007 by the Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise, in cooperation with PHILJA's Department of International Law and Human Rights Law.

The Seminar-Workshop for Judges on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances was held in 2007 to familiarize the participants on the Rule on the Writ of Amparo involving extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances and to address the concern of judges, among others, on the procedure in identifying and deciding cases on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

A Forum on the Rule on Writ of Amparo was held in 2007 to disseminate the newly promulgated rule, to address potential problem areas, and share perspectives regarding the protection of life and liberty. A Video Conference on the Rule on Writ of Amparo for Judges and Clerks of Court of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 11th Judicial Regions was likewise held. The Third Distinguished Lecture Series of 2007 included a lecture on the "Writ of Amparo: An International Perspective." Thereafter, PHILJA held a Series of Multi-Sectoral and Skills-Building Seminar Workshops on Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances during the 2008-2009 period to address the need for judges

and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system to properly address the spate of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

The Fourth Distinguished Lecture Series of 2008 dealt on the theme “Customary International Humanitarian Law (IHL): Issues on State and Command Responsibility.

PHILJA organized the International Conference on the International Criminal Court in 2008 to discuss insights on translating International Criminal Court principles into domestic legislation and judicial reform and thus strengthen the domestic criminal justice system.

In partnership with the European Union-Philippine Justice Support Programme (EPJUST), PHILJA held the Knowledge Sharing on New Human Rights Issues: International Humanitarian Law, Anti-Torture Law and Human Security Act in relation to Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances in 2010 to provide an overview of the European experience, as well as the Philippine experience on new human rights issues on International Humanitarian Law, Anti-Torture Law and Human Security Act.

PHILJA participated in three study visits/exchange programs: the EUROJUST Study Visit in The Hague, Netherlands (11-15 October 2010); the Judicial Human Rights Training Exchange Program (29-30 November 2010 and 1-3 December 2010) in Barcelona and Madrid, Spain; and EPJUST Judicial Human Rights Training Exchange Program (7-11 March 2011) in Vienna, Austria.

Women and Children

PHILJA held a total of twenty-six programs²⁶ focusing on human rights and women and children.

The Seminar-Workshops on Strengthening the Legal Protection of Children were held in the 1998-1999 period to familiarize the participants with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Philippine laws related to children.

During the 2004-2007 period, PHILJA held the Basic and Advanced Regional Multi-Sectoral Seminar-Workshops on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Justice to discuss the rights of families, women and children under the CRC, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other United Nations human rights stan-

dards, and to familiarize participants with the recent laws and Supreme Court rules affecting women, children and the family.

The Capacity Enhancement Training for Family Court Judges and Personnel in Handling Child Abuse Cases began in 2006 (and continued until 2011) to demonstrate awareness and sensitivity in handling child abuse cases during and after judicial proceedings. This series of trainings would later utilize vignettes showing court scenes to demonstrate good and bad practices as tools for critiquing. In partnership with the British Embassy and the Child Protection Unit Network, PHILJA produced in 2006 six Video Training Modules on Improving Judicial Proceedings Involving Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Cases.

PHILJA held Seminar-Workshops on CEDAW and Gender Sensitivity and the Courts for Justices, Judges, and Court Personnel during the 2006-2011 period to enhance their knowledge and develop their awareness and skill on the applicability of CEDAW and gender-fair language.

The Members of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) of the Supreme Court attended the PHILJA Seminar-Workshops in 2008 to equip them with the know-how on doing investigation and writing reports on sexual harassment cases.

Access to Justice

PHILJA held the Seminar-Workshops on Access to Justice and Laws on Women and Children for Judges and Court Personnel of First Level Courts in 2007 to increase the awareness of judges and court personnel of the first level courts on the issues regarding access to justice and basic laws concerning poor women and children, and to identify the role and importance of the *Barangay* (Community) Justice System in accessing justice.

Under the Access to Justice for the Poor Project, PHILJA held in 2007 an Information, Education and Communication Skills Training for designated Municipal Court Information Officers on the enhancement of the ability of the poor and the vulnerable groups (poor women and children in particular) to pursue justice through their increased knowledge about their basic rights and the Justice System; and the strengthening of the justice system to make it more accessible to poor and vulnerable groups.

PHILJA held in 2008 the Seminar-Workshops on Access to Justice and Code of Conduct to explain the rationale for each of the Canons of the Code

of Conduct for Court Personnel, as it relates to the “traits of a good ethical court personnel.”

The Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders Seminar-Workshops in Improving Access to Justice in Family Courts were held during the 2008-2009 period aimed at raising the level of awareness of participants on Human Rights Based-Approaches to Access to Justice in Family Courts.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons

With the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Republic Act No. 9208 or RA 9208), PHILJA held the following activities:

a. Seminar on Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (2002) and the National Inter-Disciplinary Seminar on Trafficking in Persons (2004). These seminars dealt with the international and national efforts to curb, if not altogether eliminate, human trafficking and the roles and responsibilities of the government’s Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) as provided for in the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

b. Study Program on the Judicial Helpbook on R.A. 9208—Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (2008) and the Roundtable Discussion on RA No. 9208 and RA No. 9262 (The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004)—for Judges of the National Capital Judicial Region (2006).

c. Roundtable Discussion on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (2011)—to introduce the basic concepts of human trafficking to non-specialist judges and prosecutors. A series of ASEAN Awareness Program on Trafficking in Persons for Judges and Prosecutors (January, February, June 2011) was held in partnership with the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP), Australian Government Aid Program, and Cardno (an international consulting firm).

d. Competency Enhancement Trainings for Family Court Judges and Court Personnel in Handling Child Abuse Cases and Trafficking Cases - held during the 2008-2011 period to improve the competencies of judges and personnel of family law courts and single salas²⁷ in handling child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation cases.

e. Seminar-Workshop on Combating Human Trafficking in the Philippines was held from 2010-2011 to improve the competencies of judges

and prosecutors in handling human trafficking; to encourage participants to share concerns and problems encountered in handling human trafficking cases and to apprise them of the severity of the human trafficking problem in the Philippines.

Environmental Law

PHILJA held the Judges' Forum on Environmental Protection: Philippine Environmental Law, Practice and the Role of Courts in 2003 to strengthen the capacity of judges on the handling of environmental disputes in order to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment for present and future generations.

In 2003, the Role of Courts in Fisheries Management: Conference-Seminars on Fisheries and Environmental Laws for Judges and Prosecutors were held to familiarize judges and prosecutors with fisheries and aquatic resource laws and their implementing rules and regulations and to enable judges to effectively and judiciously adjudicate criminal cases for violations of fisheries laws, rules, and regulations.

PHILJA held the Environmental Law Seminar-Workshops for Selected Judges from 2005-2006 to update the participants on the present state of the environment, and on the five environmental laws; and to emphasize the important role of the Courts in protecting the environment.

It held in 2007 the high-profile Asian Justices Forum on the Environment: Asian Experience to Strengthen Environment Adjudication in Asia in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN) and the Supreme Court-Program Management Office to exchange views on the role of the judiciary on environmental adjudication, to strengthen the role of the "green" benches and to establish international linkages with counterpart judges and courts in Asia.

A Multi-Sectoral Consultative Workshop on the Manual/Benchbook and Training Design for Green Courts was held in 2008 to discuss the format of the environmental manual that will be most useful to the judges and practitioners; and to design an enhanced environmental training program.

In 2008, PHILJA organized a number of activities that provided participants with an overview of the environmental laws pertaining to air and water pollution, solid, hazardous and toxic waste management and mecha-

nisms for their implementation; and discussed the application of specific aspects of evidence and other remedies on environmental cases. These activities included the Roundtable Discussion on Strategy for Support to Environmental Courts, the Seminar-Workshop on Capacity Building on Environmental Laws and Procedures for Lawyers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Seminar-Workshop on Managing Environmental Cases.

In 2009, it held the Forum on Environmental Justice: Upholding the Right to a Balanced and Healthful Ecology.

In 2010, it held the workshops on Multi-Sectoral Capacity Building on Environmental Laws and the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases to acquire knowledge and demonstrate understanding on the basic environmental laws, rules, regulations, administrative processes and court-related rules of procedure for environmental cases.

In 2011, a Resource Persons Discussion Workshop on the Capacity-Building Seminars for Environmental Law and the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases was held to discuss the topics to be included in training programs as well as the standard contents and flow of these topics.

Shari'a Law

In 1999, PHILJA conducted the Seminar for Shari'a Court Judges and Clerks of Court on Philippine Law to acquaint participants with the different areas of Philippine Law and to familiarize them with legal issues and problems and their solutions in Philippine Law.

The Seminar on Shari'a, Indigenous and Local Justice Systems was held in 2005 to know the state of the local modes of alternative dispute resolution in the context of the national legal system and to arrive at a shared understanding of how different justice systems and mechanisms operate in the communities of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP).

PHILJA organized in 2007 the Orientation Seminar-Workshop on Comparative Analysis Between the Family Code and The Code of Muslim Personal Laws to discuss the significant distinctions between the two laws.

Publications

In order to complement the capacity-building programs, PHILJA develops handbooks, course notes, compilations of laws, rules and regulations, and other multi-media tools for the participants.

The *Training Manual on Gender Sensitivity and CEDAW* (2007) aims to make more members of the judiciary gain a deeper understanding of women's human rights under CEDAW that would in turn be applied and reflected in court decisions and issuances.²⁸

The *CEDAW Benchbook* (2008) explains how jurisprudence has helped in the realization of women's human rights and how it can further do so as part of state obligations under the CEDAW. It is a resource material for those interested in the application of CEDAW in the Philippines by providing a snapshot of successful and failed experiences, and how to work towards creating a legal system that offers a better understanding, and complete protection, of the rights of women.²⁹

The *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Benchbook for Judges* (2009) aims to provide information on the national and global contexts of trafficking and update the knowledge of judges on the provisions of the anti-trafficking law (RA 9208) and other related laws.

The *Participants and Facilitators Handbook on Competency Enhancement Training for Family Court and Single Sala Judges & Personnel Handling Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Cases* (2009) gives specific instructions as to what participants have to do during the training.

The *Proceedings of the International Conference on the International Criminal Court* (2010) is a compilation of the proceedings and papers delivered during the two-day International Conference on the International Criminal Court on the theme "Protecting Human Rights—Upholding International Justice."

The *Helpbook on Human Rights Issues: Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances* (2011) focuses on state responsibility, human rights and humanitarian law, the doctrine of command responsibility, extralegal killings (ELK) and enforced disappearances (ED).

The *Access to Environmental Justice: A Sourcebook on Environmental Rights and Legal Remedies* (2010) presents the remarkable array of environmental law and principles that enshrine the rights of the present generation

and its posterity to a more livable and sustainable place on Earth. It likewise provides the remedies available to ordinary Filipinos seeking redress for actual damage arising from an environmental hazard as well as the immediate recourse on any species of life.³⁰

The *Capacity Assessment Report on Environmental Justice* (2010) provides an evaluation of the roles and responsibilities of the pillars of justice to execute and implement the provisions of the Constitution and environmental laws.³¹

The *Laws, Rules and Issuances on Environmental Cases* is a special publication of PHILJA that provides courts, especially Environmental Courts, and other pillars of the Criminal Justice System with a helpful reference on laws, rules and issuances on environmental cases.³² Likewise, the *Laws, Rules and Issuances for Cases Involving Family, Domestic Relations, Women and Children* provides courts, especially Family Courts, and other pillars of the Criminal Justice System with a helpful reference on laws, rules and issuances for cases involving family, domestic relations, women and children.³³

Participants

In line with its mandate, PHILJA's core programs serve justices, judges, court personnel, lawyers, and aspirants to judicial posts. From 2000, it was able to train or reach out to 27,667³⁴ participants on human rights-related trainings and other activities.

PHILJA's special focus programs, on the other hand, cater to judges, court personnel and other stakeholders. To date, 21,695³⁵ participants attended its human rights-related trainings and other activities under these programs.

A number of the PHILJA's special focus programs are multi-sectoral in approach. As aptly put by Justice Ameurfina A. Melencio Herrera, PHILJA's Founding Chancellor Emeritus, when she addressed the participants of the Asian Justices Forum on the Environment in 2007:

The training programs will continue to be multi-sectoral to include prosecutors, [officials of different] government agencies, [members of the law] enforcement agencies, [members of] people's organizations, and public interest lawyers; as our experience has been that this approach is more effective in the interaction of participants leading to a better understanding of each other's viewpoints on environmental protection.³⁶

PHILJA receives full support from the Supreme Court by guaranteeing the participation of judges and court personnel in its trainings and other activities.³⁷ The same is true with the quasi-judicial, legislative, and executive agencies, and other stakeholders.

The World Bank noted in its Judicial Sector Study in 2000 that: “[PHILJA] achieves international standards in that it supports judicial independence through a judicial majority and it is representative of the various courts it serves.”³⁸

Approach to Trainings/Methodologies Used/Training Modules

PHILJA’s trainings and other activities have always been trailblazing. Participatory methodologies have always been employed: workshops, group exercises, role-plays, moot court, immersion programs. The traditional lecture format is made more engaging with the use of multimedia presentations. A number of forums were simultaneously held in various parts of the country through the use of video conferencing to reach wider audience.

Time is also provided for sharing of knowledge among participants through group discussions, plenaries and forums.

These trainings and other activities are periodically reviewed to provide the best and the current trends and developments on the topics involved. Curriculum content covers both legal and nonlegal topics.

PHILJA has a Corps of Professors as its official instructional force.³⁹ These professors are all authorities in the various fields of law and judicial management.

It must be noted that a number of the PHILJA’s special focus programs are implemented in response to requests received from development partners, agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Seminar Workshop on Capacity Building on Environmental Laws and Procedures for Lawyers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources held in 2008 is an example.

PHILJA’s Academic Affairs Office (AAO) and the resource persons design the program content and methodologies, which are at times based on training needs analysis (TNA).

A number of the PHILJA’s trainings and other activities have produced training manuals (such as the manuals on gender sensitivity and CEDAW,

and on rape) and helpbooks (such as those on CEDAW, anti-trafficking, and human rights in general).

The 2001 Year-End Report of PHILJA notes that:

The substantive quality of the programs, the expertise of [PHILJA] lecturers, and the continuing assessment and improvement of the curricula, contributed to [their] consistently high rating by participants ... Also[, the participants] graded ... most favorably ... the educational experience, the format, the methods, the choice of thematic programs, including the working teams assigned.⁴⁰

PHILJA's contribution in uplifting judicial competence to global standards has also been recognized by international institutions. The World Bank's 2000 Judicial Sector Study has noted PHILJA's independence while international conferences of judges have acknowledged PHILJA's standards in judicial education. The Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute Inaugural Meeting in Nova Scotia in Canada last December 2001, for example, commended PHILJA for having the "most advanced and sophisticated structure of judicial education."⁴¹

Conclusion

The relative success of PHILJA's human rights education offerings is a function of availability of resources, competence of resource persons, and the multi-disciplinary approach to the programs.

PHILJA's track record in delivering project-based programs through donor grants and the efficient compliance with judicial education standards has gained the trust and confidence of partners and stakeholders. In fact, PHILJA's experience is being shared within the region and worldwide to this date.

PHILJA utilizes optimal evaluative tools to measure the behavioral patterns of judges and court personnel as well as their respective outputs through decisions and policies that reflect their enhanced knowledge and skills. But they are applied on per activity basis. Thus an important task remains, i.e., the undertaking of a major impact assessment of judicial education in order to measure the qualitative impact of all PHILJA's offerings.

This will further contribute to enhancing PHILJA's capacity to ensure judicial excellence in the coming years.

Endnotes

1 Establishment of the Philippine Judicial Academy, Administrative Order No. 35-96, 12 March 1996.

2 An Act Establishing the Philippine Judicial Academy, Defining its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes, Republic Act No. 8557, 26 February 1998.

3 Ibid.

4 Philippine Judicial Academy: An Introduction (Manila:PHILJA, 2010), page 7.

5 Ibid., page 8.

6 Ibid., page 17.

7 Ibid., page 22

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid., page 24.

10 Ibid., page 28.

11 Ibid., page 31.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid., page 32.

14 Ibid., page 34.

15 Multi-sectoral refers to different people and institutions related to the justice/legal system including judges, prosecutors, officials of government agencies, members of law enforcement agencies, members of people's organizations, and public interest lawyers.

16 Pacifico A. Agabin, *Situationer: Human Rights in the Philippines, Helpbook on Human Rights Issues: Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances* (Manila: Supreme Court, 2011), page 1.

17 Ibid.

18 Supra note 16, page 2 (citing Supreme Court Information Office, *A Conspiracy of Hope: Report on the National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances, 1* [2008]).

19 Ibid.

20 Supra note 16, page 3 (citing Karapatan, *2010 Year-End Report on the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines*, 16 [2010]).

21 Supra note 16, page 4, citing Karapatan, *ibid.*, page 17 [2010]).

22 Supra note 16, page 9.

23 The writ of amparo is an order of the court protecting persons from violation or any threat of violation of the right to life, liberty and security. The rule on the writ of amparo defines the petition for the issuance of this writ in the following manner:

The petition for a writ of amparo is a remedy available to any person whose right to life, liberty and security is violated or threatened with violation by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee, or of a private individual or entity.

The writ shall cover extralegal killings and enforced disappearances or threats thereof. (Section 1. Petition. The Rule on the Writ of Amparo, Resolution A.M. No. 07-9-12-SC of the Philippine Supreme Court, 25 September 2007. Effective 24 October 2007.)

An immediate issuance of the writ follows the filing of the proper petition and served on respondent, who is obliged to answer the writ within seventy-two hours from its receipt. Continuous and summary hearing is held. The court, justice or judge may, *motu proprio* or upon motion, grant temporary reliefs such as temporary protection order for the party or any member of the immediate family of the petitioner; inspection order for the land or other property or any relevant object; production order for any documents, papers, etc. or objects in digitized form which constitute or contain evidence relevant to the petition; or witness protection order for the protection of witnesses.

24 Similar to the writ of amparo, the writ of habeas data is meant to protect persons from violation or threat of violation of their right to privacy in life, liberty or security. Upon the filing of the petition, the court, justice or judge shall immediately order the issuance of the writ if on its face it ought to issue. The hearing on the petition is summary although the court, justice or judge may call for a preliminary conference to simplify the issues and determine the possibility or obtaining stipulations and admissions from the parties. The judgment may result into (a) denial of the privilege; or (b) court enjoining the act complained of; or (c) order the deletion, destruction, or rectification of the erroneous data or information and grant of other reliefs as may be just and equitable. The writ of habeas data issued is enforceable anywhere in the Philippines. [The Rule on the Writ of Habeas Data, Resolution A. M. No. 08-1-16-SC of the Philippine Supreme Court, 22 January 2008. Effective 2 February 2008.

25 Culled from the “Report on Human Rights Programs and Related Activities Implemented by PHILJA” submitted by Justice Delilah Vidallon Magtolis, PHILJA Chief of Office for Academic Affairs.

26 The following are the PHILJA trainings and other activities focused on women and children:

- Seminar-Workshop on Strengthening the Legal Protection of Children (1998-1999)
- Basic and Advanced Regional Multi-Sectoral Seminar Workshop on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Justice for Single Sala Courts (2004-2007)
- Video Production on Trials Involving Children (1999)
- Workshop on Video-Conferencing in Trial Cases Involving Testimony of Children (1999)
- Gender Sensitivity Training Programs (1999-2000)
- Training for Family Court Judges (2000)
- Training for Family Court Judges and Social Welfare Officers (2001)
- Seminar-Workshop for Court Social Workers (2001)
- Capacity Building for Rape Case Management (2002)

- Tele-Video Conference on Psychological Incapacity and Capacity of the Child (2002)
- Seminar-Workshop on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Justice for Single-Sala Courts (2002)
- Asia-Europe Experts' Meeting: Understanding Women and Children (2003)
- Seminar on the New Trend in Understanding Women and Children (2004)
- Capacity Enhancement Training for Family Court Judges and Personnel in Handling Child Abuse Cases (2006)
- Video Conference on Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (2006)
- Production of six Video Training Modules on Improving Judicial Proceedings Involving Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Cases (2006)
- Seventh International Society on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Asian Regional Conference and Workshop (2007)
- Seminar-Workshop on Discernment (2007)
- Series of Competency Enhancement Training (CET) for Family Court Judges and Personnel in Handling Child Abuse Cases and Trafficking Cases (2008-2011)
- Seminar-Workshop on CEDAW Gender Sensitivity and the Courts for Justices, Judges and Court Personnel (2006-2011)
- Seminar-Workshop for Members of Committee on Decorum and Investigation (2008)
- Discussion Sessions on Gender Equality and CEDAW (2008)
- Regional Multi-Sectoral Seminar Workshop on Improving Access in Family Courts (2008-2009)
- Forum on Children in Conflict with the Law: Creative Partnership among the Pillars of Justice and NGOs (2009)
- Seminar-Workshop on Sextortion Toolkit Development/Final Validation of Sextortion Kit (2010)
- Seminar-Workshop on Access to Justice and Laws on Women and Children for Judges and Court Personnel of First Level Courts (2007).

27 A single sala means that only one lower court branch exists in one locality.

28 Amparita S. Sta. Maria, Introduction, *Training Manual on Gender Sensitivity and CEDAW* (2007), page 1.

29 Amparita S. Sta. Maria, "Benchbook Framework," *CEDAW Benchbook* (2008), page 2.

30 Renato C. Corona. Foreword, *Access to Environmental Justice: A Sourcebook on Environmental Rights and Legal Remedies* (2010), page ii.

31 PHILJA Annual Report (2010), page 60.

32 *Ibid.*, page 66.

33 *Ibid.*

34 Approximate total number of participants collated from the data provided by PHILJA's Academic Affairs Office. Several program reports do not mention the number of participants.

35 *Ibid.*

36 Ameurfina A. Melencio Herrera, "Strengthening Court Capacity on Environment Adjudication, in 11 *PHILJA JOURNAL* 32, 558 (2009).

37 *Supra* note 4, page 2.

38 *Supra* note 4, page 70.

39 *Supra* note 4, page 9

40 *Supra* note 4, page 71.

41 Merzenaida Donovan, *PHILJA: Premier Training School for Judges, Court Personnel, at Action Program for Judicial Reform*, http://apjr.judiciary.gov.ph/news_2007/archive_featurearticle009.html.