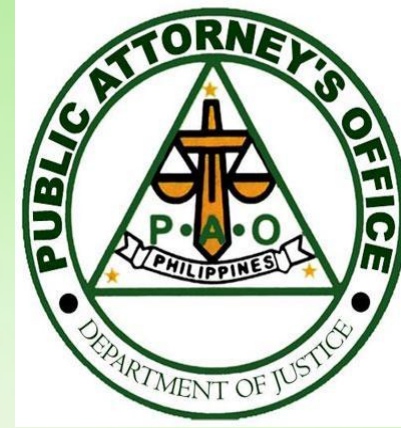




ATTY. PERSIDA V. RUEDA - ACOSTA
Chief Public Attorney



2018 International Forum on Legal Aid

**Working Together with
Non-Legal Services**



By DR. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA, DSD

Chief Public Attorney, Public Attorney's Office

*Doctor of Social Development, College of Social Work and Community
Development, University of the Philippines-Diliman, Quezon City*

Senior Executive Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

Climate Reality Leader, The Climate Reality

Project/The Climate Reality Leadership Corps

Senior Fellow, Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowships

Fellow, Salzburg Global Seminar

Fellow, Japan Legal Aid Association

*International Visitor (IV), International Visitors Program
of the United States of America*

Member, International Legal Aid Group

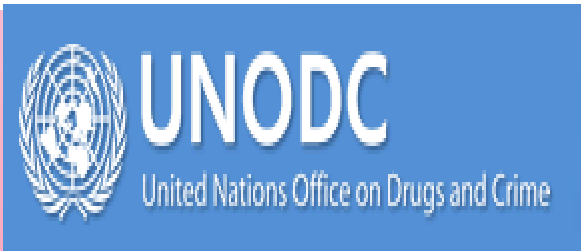
Member, International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts

Member, International Corrections and Prisons Association

4th Placer, 1989 Philippine Bar Examinations

Professor, Ateneo de Manila University Law School

Collaborations with non-legal organizations and professionals in conducting legal aid work



International Organizations



Philippine Government Institutions

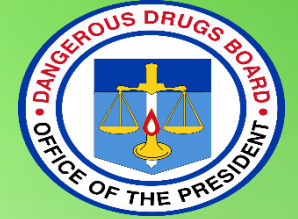
Collaborations with non-legal organizations and professionals in conducting legal aid work



Media Organizations

Collaborations with other Philippine offices and organizations (with Agreements for Legal Assistance)

1. Association of Local Social Welfare and Development Officers of the Philippines, Incorporated (ALSWDOPI)
2. Bureau of Immigration (BI)
3. Commission on Elections (COMELEC)
4. Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB)
5. Department of Education (DepEd)
6. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
7. League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
8. National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC)
9. National Press Club (NPC)
10. Philippine Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)
11. Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC)
12. Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)
13. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
14. Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP)
15. Press Photographers of the Philippines (PPP)

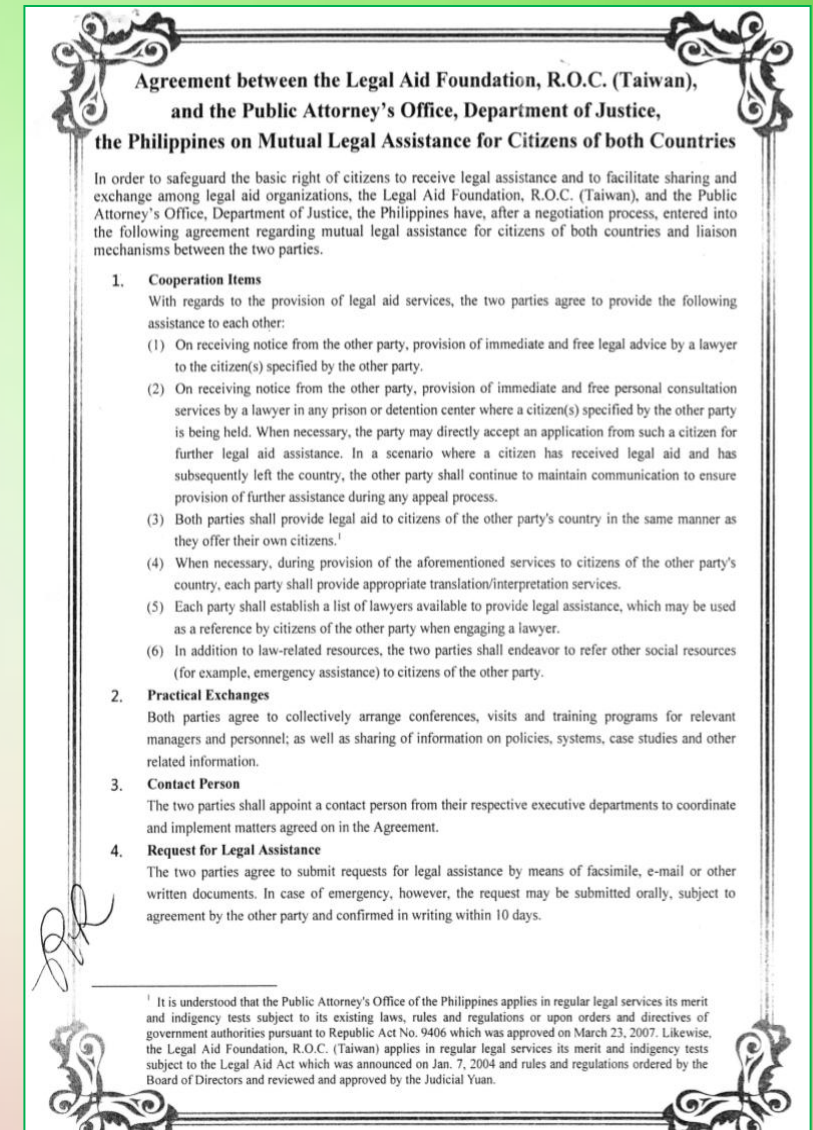


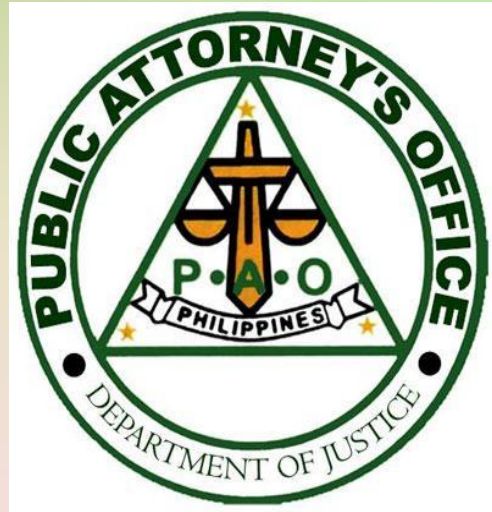
Press Photographers of the Philippines



Legal Aid Foundation, R.O.C (Taiwan)

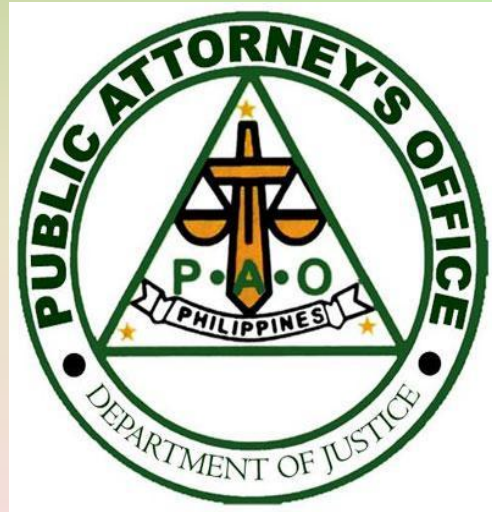
- Has an Agreement with the Public Attorney's Office
- **Agreement:** Regarding mutual legal assistance for citizens of both countries and liaison mechanisms between the two parties
- Signed on October 27, 2014





United Nations Children's Fund

- Sponsor of the Public Attorney's Office in a series of seminars about *Legal Assistance to Children in Conflict with the Law, Diversion*, and other relevant topics about *Child Rights*



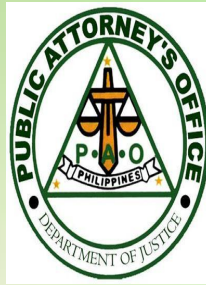
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- Sponsor of the Public Attorney's Office in training sessions that enhance and strengthen the competence of the public attorneys in assisting refugees and stateless persons for more than five (5) years now.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) & the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Philippines

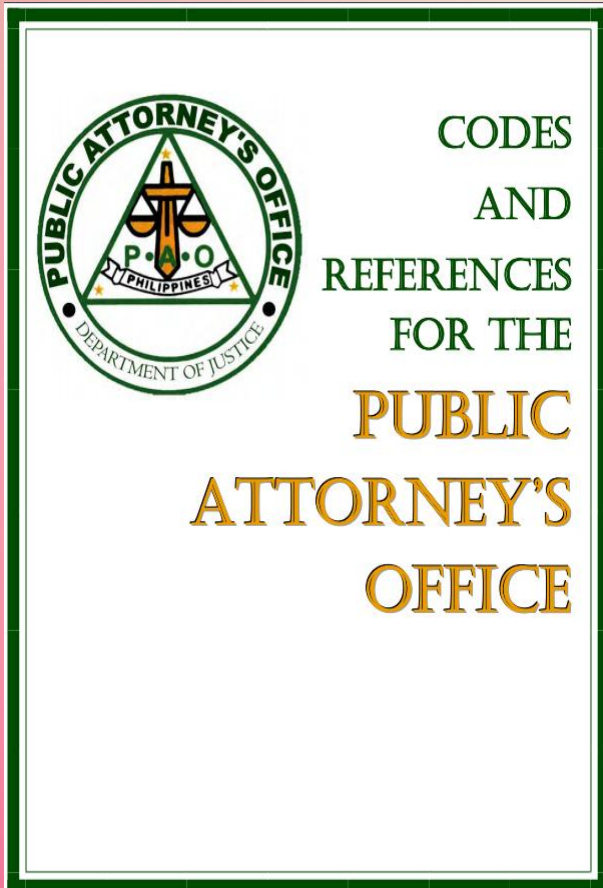
- Pursuant to this MOU, the PAO renders free legal assistance, counselling and representation to refugees, stateless persons and those seeking recognition as refugees and/or stateless persons in the Philippine context, provided that such persons qualify as indigents.
- The original MOU was signed on January 8, 2013, and took effect immediately upon the signing thereof. The same was renewed for a period of two (2) years on March 15, 2015. In view of the positive outcome of the collaboration between the PAO and UNHCR, the parties agreed to renew the original MOU for another period of two (2) years. The signing of the latest renewed MOU was held on April 6, 2017 at the PAO-Central Office.





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

United States Agency for International Development (together with the American Bar Association - Rule of Law Initiative)



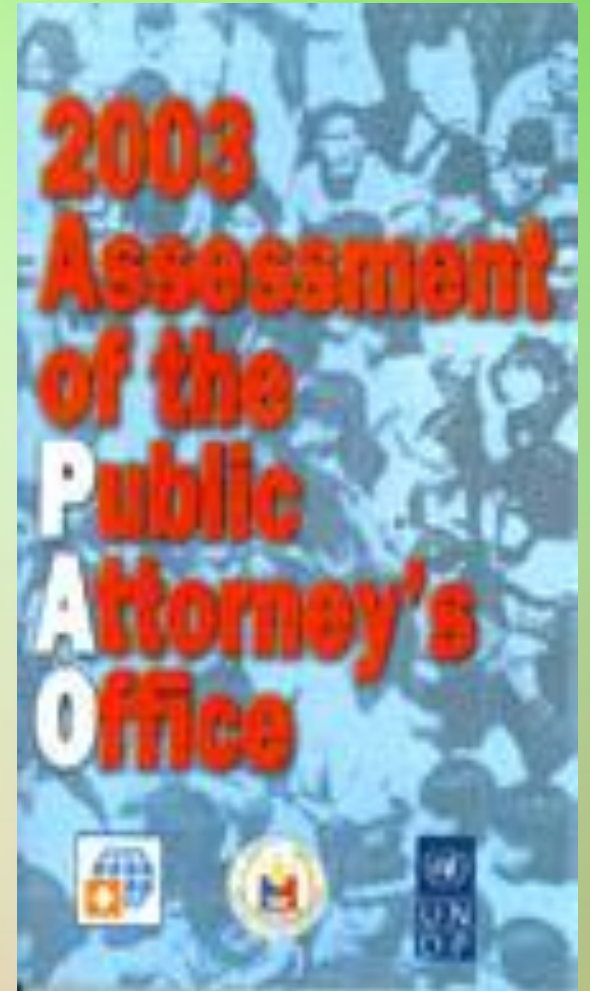
- Supported the Public Attorney's Office in publishing the "*Codes and References for the Public Attorney's Office*".
- This book compiles the rules of conduct that must be observed by public attorneys and support staff, and the procedures to be observed by them in the handling of cases and other client concerns.
- It also gives the details in the procedures of handling special types of clients and cases which include women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, children in conflict with the law, and credit card delinquency problem.



United Nations Development
Programme

United Nations Development Programme

- It funded the study entitled, *2003 Assessment of the Public Attorney's Office* (Conducted by La Salle Institute of Governance with the Supreme Court of the Philippines)
- **UNDP:** *“The ability of an organization to motivate its staff rests not only on monetary terms. Apparently, in the PAO the psychic rewards of helping the poor are very strong.”*
- The said study contributed greatly to the approval of *Republic Act 9406* or the *PAO Law* on March 23, 2007.





The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) invited the Chief Public Attorney to two (2) international legal aid events stated below with her corresponding roles therein, to wit:

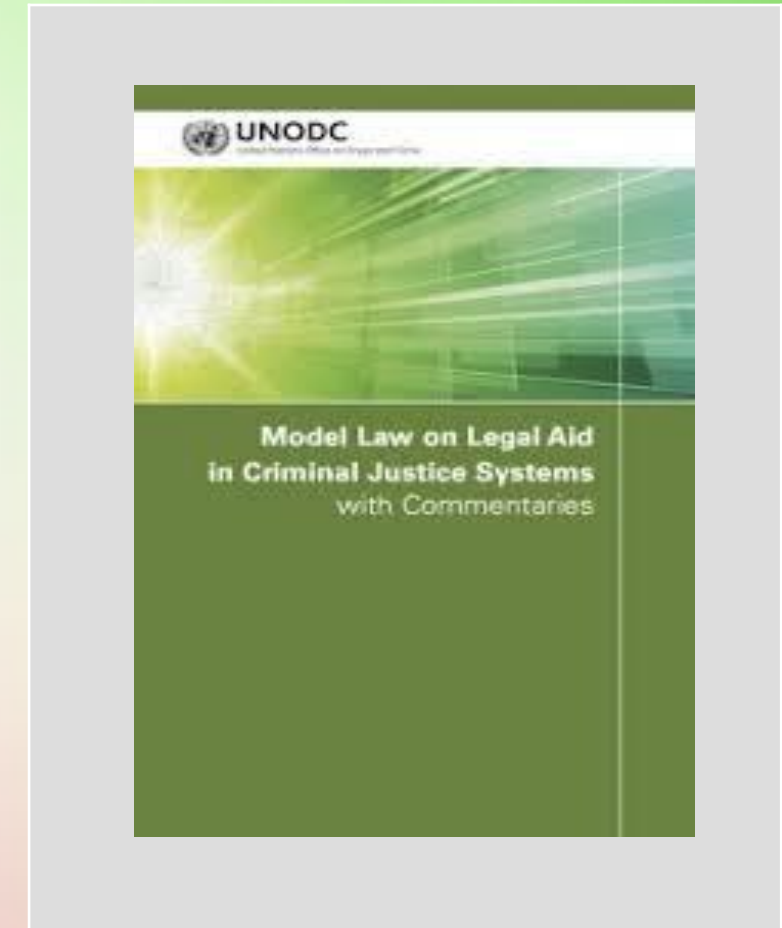
Resource Person, **Open-Ended Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems**, November 16-18, 2011, Vienna, Austria;

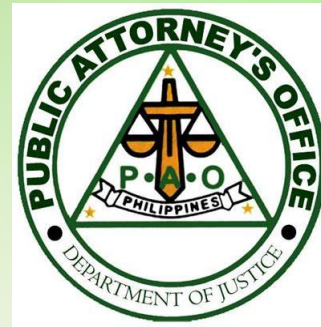
Panel Speaker, **International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems** (co-hosted with the Government of South Africa, Legal Aid South Africa, together with the International Legal Foundation, and the United Nations Development Programme), June 24-26, 2014, Johannesburg, South Africa

which somehow led to her participation to its project, ***Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*** that was published by the said international organization in 2017.



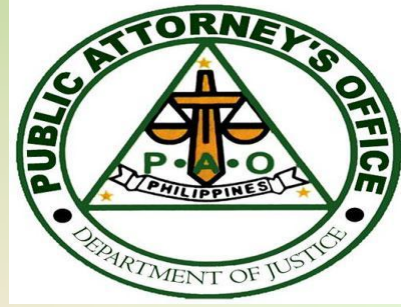
- The UNODC acknowledged the Chief Public Attorney's comments to the draft *Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*.
- Exposure to the said global gathering enriches her insights on legal aid and enables the transfer of knowledge from the said international fora and related activities to the Public Attorney's Office (through her) and other venues and endeavors where she serves as a Resource Person.





Bureau of Corrections and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology

- Partners of the Public Attorney's Office in its outreach programs for the inmates.
- Supervise the prisons and jails in the Philippines that are in-charge with the rehabilitation and safekeeping of the inmates in the country.



Department of Social Welfare and Development

- Partner of the Public Attorney's Office in a joint project, for three (3) of the vulnerable sectors in Philippine society: the victims of Violence Against Women and Children, Children in Conflict with the Law, and prospective adoptees in adoption cases.
- This is in connection with their Memorandum of Agreement, dated October 9, 2013.
- In view of the said agreement between the two (2) offices, the psychosocial intervention and debriefing services of the Department of Social Welfare and Development are being made available to abovementioned clients they share with the Public Attorney's Office.

Memorandum of Agreement Between the Public Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Welfare and Development

The Department of Social Welfare and Development also commits to provide the following services:

- Ensure that the client understands the questions propounded and comprehends terms and concepts, and other psycho-social matters which will assist the court or agency in properly dealing with the client's testimony. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall hold debriefing sessions for the client after every court appearance (Part III, e);
- Provide or assign social workers in tandem with the Public Attorney's Office, including coordinating between the said Office and the client, and the latter's witnesses (psychologists, police, doctors) and arranging conferences/meeting between or among them upon the request of the Public Attorney's Office (*Ibid.*, f);
- Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies or institutions with respect to a particular case, if needed, to assist in the speedy and successful disposition of the case, and to ensure the continuing cooperation and support of the client in the prosecution of the case (*Id.*, g).

Memorandum of Agreement Between the Public Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Welfare and Development

The Public Attorney's Office agrees to fulfill the following commitments:

- Monitor and supervise the activities of the Public Attorneys and paralegals assigned to handle the cases and provide them with the continuing skills, training, consultative dialogues and organizational support in order to improve their services. The Public Attorney's Office, in partnership with DSWD, shall also conduct trainings and consultative dialogues (Part III, 3);
- Assist the DSWD in policy formulation and advocacy for the protection and advancement of the best interest of women and children (Part IV, a);
- Provide resource persons for the DSWD's training programs on law and programs for women and children (*Ibid.*, b);
- Conduct legal aid clinics in DSWD centers and institutions catering to children in conflict with the law and women and children who are victims of violence" (*Id.*, c).

Memorandum of Agreement Between the Public Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Welfare and Development

- Based on the said provisions, the Public Attorney's Office commits to be with the DSWD in every stage of the cases of their shared clients until the granting of the court's final decision; also in the drafting of policy and advocacy, in being of assistance to social workers in outreach programs, like legal clinics, for the beneficiaries of their Memorandum of Agreement, and in conducting trainings.
- One such training was the seminar series entitled, "**Capacitating PAO Lawyers for Enhanced Protective Services.**" It was a series of five (5) seminars – three (3) were held in 2015 and two (2) in 2016.

Collaborations With Media Organizations

The Chief Public Attorney's free legal advice columns in newspapers and book

1. **Dear PAO** published daily by *The Manila Times*
2. **Magtanong kay Attorney (Ask Attorney)** published daily by *Bulgar*;
3. **Daing Mula sa Hukay...Hustisya (Groan From the Grave...Justice)** published every Friday also by *Bulgar*
4. **Say Mo Attorney?** published by *People's Tonight* three times a week – *Monday, Wednesday & Friday*

The *Manila Times* also published the book, **Legal Eagle's Counsel: Solutions to Everyday Legal Problems.**



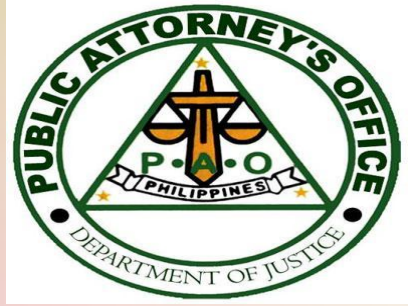
Collaborations With Media Organizations

- A **reality-mediation show**, hosted by the Chief Public Attorney had given **legal advice to warring parties** and promoted **out-of-court settlement of** their disputes.
- It started in 2010 and lasted for more than two (2) years on air.
- The said show provided an **avenue for alternative dispute resolution (ADR)**.
- *Public Atorni* was produced at no cost to PAO.
- Producer: Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC/TV5), one of the biggest television networks in the Philippines)



Collaborations With Media Organizations

Year 2017



- The comeback of the Public Attorney's Office to the small screen through the legal segment, ***“Tapang ng Batas”*** (Valor of the Law)
- Producer: People's Television Network, owned by the Philippine government
- ***“Tapang ng Batas”*** featured the winning cases of the Public Attorney's Office, and became the legal segment for the news programs of the said network.
- Started on July 10, 2017; Latest episode aired on May 7, 2018
- Videos of previous episodes have been uploaded on the Facebook page of ***“Tapang ng Batas”***, and can still be viewed there.
- Taping for new episodes - on hold for a possible reformatting of the said legal segment and lengthening of its airtime

Maraming Salamat Po

2018 Lifetime Achievement
Gawad Amerika Foundation
August 18, 2018

Most Outstanding Filipino Patriot Award
Citizen National Guard's First National Congress
Amoranto Multi Purpose Hall, Quezon City
July 14, 2018

Outstanding Institution for Government Service Year 2017
19th Founding Anniversary of Volunteers Against
Crime and Corruption (VACC)
Heroes Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila
August 16, 2017

2017 The Rotary Golden Wheel Awards
Exemplary Achievements in the field of Social Justice
Paul Harris Vocational Service Awards
Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria
February 4, 2017

9th Natatanging San Joseño Gawad Parangal
Natatanging San Joseño sa Paglilingkod Bayan
Aking Dangal at Kalinga, Inc.
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Nobyembre 4, 2016

Plaque of Recognition
64th Anniversary of the National Press Club
Bulwagang Plaridel, Intramuros, Manila
October 28, 2016

Gawad Dangal ng Lipi 2016
Sa Larangan ng Paglilingkod Bayan
Lalawigan ng Bulacan, Lungsod ng Malolos
September 15, 2016

Outstanding and Significant
Public Service Award
18th Founding Anniversary
Crime and Corruption (VACC)
Rizal Hall, Malacañang Palace
August 29, 2016

2016 Golden Globe Annual
Outstanding and Significant
& Excellence and Notewo
Public Service
March 13, 2016

Alice Hernandez R
28th Annual Aliw

2015 Most Outstar
15th Gawad Amer

2015 Most Outsta
Lyceum of the Phi

2015 Pamana ng Kap
Asian Congress for M

Outstanding Alumna
University of the East
Hawaii Chapter (UEA)

Congratulatory Certi
28th Legislature of th

PASADO Gawad Sinig
PinakaPASADONG Linc
(May Mataas na Papur
Pampelikulang Samah

Ginintuang Sulo ng B
Golden Torch Creativ

Dr. Persida V. Rueda-Acosta, DSD
Chief Public Attorney



To avail of free legal counselling, call PAO hotline: (02) 426-26-83; (02) 426-24-50;

(02) 426-28-01; (02) 426-20-75; (02) 426-23-95 and (02) 426-29-87 or 929-94-36 local 106 / 107 during

office hours and local 159 after office hours (including weekends and holidays). You may also send your e-mail to

pao_executive@yahoo.com or visit PAO-Central Office at DOJ Agencies Bldg., NIA Road corner East Avenue,

Diliman, Quezon City. For more information, you may access our website at www.pao.gov.ph