

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1347, April 11, 1978**]

INTEGRATING THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OFFICE INTO THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, PROVIDING MEANS TO MAKE THE SOLICITOR GENERAL'S INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION MORE EFFECTIVE, ADJUSTING THE COMPENSATION OF PERSONNEL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the litigation, administrative proceedings, naturalization by decree, investigations and other legal work handled by the Office of the Solicitor General continue to increase in volume, complexity and importance;

WHEREAS, the complete integration of the Investigation and Recovery Office into the Office of the Solicitor General is necessary to promote simplicity, economy and efficiency;

WHEREAS, adjustments in the compensation of personnel are necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the Office of the Solicitor General as the law office of the Government and to sustain and further upgrade the quality of its personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree:

SECTION 1. The office of the Solicitor General shall be headed by a Solicitor General whose qualifications for appointment, rank, prerogatives, and privileges, without prejudice to special orders of the President on these matters, shall be the same as those of the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals. He shall be assisted by ten (10) Assistant Solicitors General who shall have the same qualifications for appointment, rank, prerogatives and privileges as the Judges of Courts of First Instance. When the Solicitor General is unable to perform his duties or in the case of vacancy in the Office, one of the ten (10) Assistant Solicitors General designated by the Department Head shall temporarily perform in the functions of the said officer.

The Solicitor General and the Assistant Solicitors General who must be officers learned in the law and the Solicitors shall be appointed by the President. No person shall be appointed Solicitor unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a member of the Philippine Bar, of recognized competence, with experience in the practice of law for at least four (4) years, and except in cases of promotion within the office, must not be more than forty five (45) years old.

The Solicitor General shall organize his legal and administrative staff in such manner as he may deem best to promote the efficiency of the service and the administration of justice.

SEC. 2. The number of positions and the annual salaries of the other members of the Legal and Administrative Staff of the Office of the Solicitor General shall be fixed by the President upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Budget, pursuant to P.D. No. 985.

The Trial Attorneys and administrative personnel in the Office of the Solicitor General shall be appointed by the Secretary of Justice upon recommendation of the Solicitor