

**[ IPOPHL MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 17-012  
Series of 2017, July 10, 2017 ]**

**EXPEDITING THE TRIAL OF CASES BY AMENDING CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMPLAINTS FOR VIOLATION OF LAW INVOLVING  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**Whereas,** it is the policy of the Intellectual Property Office to continuously streamline its operations, systems, processes, including administrative procedures, in resolving disputes and controversies involving intellectual property rights;

**Whereas,** under Sec. 10.3 of Rep. Act No. 8293, also known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines ("IP Code"), the Director General may by regulation establish the procedure to govern administrative proceedings;

**Whereas,** under Sec. 7 (a) of the IP Code, the Director General shall manage and direct all functions and activities of the Office, including the promulgation of rules and regulations to implement the objectives, policies, plans, programs and projects of the Office;

**Whereas,** the rules and regulations on administrative complaints which took effect on December 17, 1998 was modified, which under the Modified Rules and Regulations on Administrative Complaints took effect on March 28, 2001;

**Whereas,** there is a need to further amend the Rules on Administrative Complaints in order to achieve a more efficient and expeditious resolution of administrative complaints, including the hearing of the evidence in chief during trial of cases, at the Bureau of Legal Affairs;

**Now, Wherefore,** the Regulations on Administrative Complaints for Violation of Law Involving Intellectual Property Rights, as modified, is hereby further amended as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The first paragraph of Sec. 1 of Rule 9, is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"Section 1. Expedited Trial of Cases, (a) The Hearing Officer shall set the case for successive and continuous hearing for the reception of the evidence in chief. The parties shall complete their presentation of evidence in two (2) years. The Complainant shall have eight (8) months to present and offer evidence, which shall commence on the first trial date as specified in the Pre-Trial Order. Within ten (10) days after the Complainant rest or after the lapse of the 8-month period, whichever comes first, the Complainant shall file a formal offer of evidence. The