

## EN BANC

**[ A.M. No. P-16-3423 [Formerly A.M. No. 13-9-89-MTCC], February 16, 2016 ]**

**RE: CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION IRREGULARITY  
(IMPERSONATION) OF MS. ELENA T. VALDEROSO, CASH CLERK  
II, OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT  
IN CITIES, ANTIPOLLO CITY**

### D E C I S I O N

**PER CURIAM:**

In a letter<sup>[1]</sup> dated July 11, 2013, Atty. Ariel G. Ronquillo (Atty. Ronquillo), Assistant Commissioner, Civil Service Commission (CSC), referred to the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), for appropriate action, the alleged involvement in an examination irregularity (impersonation) of respondent Elena T. Valderoso (Valderoso), Cash Clerk II, Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC), Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Antipollo City, Rizal.

According to Atty. Ronquillo, on March 23, 2013, Valderoso requested for the authentication/verification of her civil service eligibility with the CSC. The said request was made due to her application for promotion from Cash Clerk II to Cashier. Upon validation of the identity of Valderoso, however, the Integrated Records Management Office (IRMO) noted several discrepancies in the facial features and signatures of Valderoso as compared to the Picture-Seat-Plan (PSP) of the Career Service Professional examination held on October 16, 1994 in Quezon City. The evaluation contained in IRMO Memo No. 542, s. 2013,<sup>[2]</sup> signed by Maria Leticia G. Reyna, Director IV, particularly noted the following differences:

	<b>PSP</b>	<b>ID</b>
<b>1. Physical Features</b>		
a. Hair Texture	-	-
b. Hairline	-	-
c. Face	Oval	Semi-round
d. Forehead	-	-
e. Eyebrow	Long & arched towards the side	Semi-arched
f. Eyes	Rounded	Down slant
g. Nose	Medium	Narrow
h. Mouth/Lips	Small; thick lower lip	Medium
i. Ears	Rectangular	Oval; close to head
j. Cheek	Sunken	Filled-out

k. Chin	Small/pointed	Normal/oval
l. Neck	Long	Short
2. Signature	Both semi-personalized but with different strokes	

Moreover, the On-the-Spot Investigation Report<sup>[3]</sup> dated May 23, 2013 of the Office for Legal Affairs of CSC stated that upon questioning, Valderoso insisted that she was the one who took the October 16, 1994 civil service examination and that she was not aware of any other person with the same name as hers who also took the examination on the same day. When Valderoso, however was instructed to sign in the back page of the Report to have a comparison of the specimen signature, the investigator found the same to be incomparable particularly in the strokes of the handwriting.

Due to the discovery of the discrepancies, Valderoso manifested that she is no longer inclined to have her eligibility authenticated and requested that any report on the matter be submitted to her instead to this Court.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Indorsement<sup>[4]</sup> dated October 4, 2013, the OCA directed Valderoso to submit her Comment to the letter of Atty. Ronquillo within a period often (10) days from receipt thereof.

On November 18, 2013, Valderoso filed her Answer<sup>[5]</sup> wherein she contended that sometime in 1994, while she was pregnant with her third child she was scheduled to take the civil service examination on October 16, 1994 at the San Francisco High School, Quezon City. However, she decided to skip the examination as she had just given birth on September 18, 1994. At that time, she was a casual employee of the local government of Antipolo City, detailed as a clerk at the OCC, MTCC, Antipolo City.

According to her, when she returned to work on November 14, 1994, she was summoned by the Human Resources Department of the local government agency concerned. To her surprise, she received her Certificate of Eligibility<sup>[6]</sup> with a passing rate of 88.38%. Upon investigation, she discovered that it was a certain Elsie P. Matignas (Matignas) who facilitated her civil service eligibility. Matignas, however, refused to divulge the true identity of the person who took the test in her stead.

On September 9, 1997, Valderoso was appointed as Cash Clerk II in this Court until her resignation on June 6, 2013. She averred that during her employment in this Court, she had never been subjected to any administrative or disciplinary action. As such, she prayed that the whole monetary equivalent of her remaining leave credits be given to her so she can pay for her loan obligation with the Supreme Court Loans Association as well as to finance her plan to work abroad.

After evaluation, the OCA issued Memorandum<sup>[7]</sup> dated March 23, 2015 wherein it recommended the re-docketing of the matter as a regular administrative case and that Valderoso be found guilty of serious misconduct and dishonesty. Moreover, in view of her resignation on June 6, 2013, the OCA likewise recommended that whatever benefits still due her from the government, except for accrued leave