

SECOND DIVISION

[A. M. No. P-03-1709, July 11, 2003]

**EDNA B. DAVID, COMPLAINANT, VS. ANGELINA C. RILLORTA,
STENOGRAPHER AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH 21, SANTIAGO CITY, RESPONDENT.**

D E C I S I O N

CALLEJO, SR., J.:

Before the Court is the sworn Letter-complaint of Edna B. David, dated January 24, 2001, charging Angelina C. Rillorta, Stenographer and Officer-in-Charge, Regional Trial Court of Santiago City, Branch 21, with conduct unbecoming of a public official, grave abuse of authority and bribery.

Edna B. David, the complainant, avers that she is an employee of the Great Domestic Insurance Company of the Philippines, Inc., a surety company. On January 15, 2001, the complainant, together with her superior, went to the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Santiago City, Branch 21, to process the application for bail of Marlene Agdeppa, an accused in a criminal case who applied for a bail bond with the Great Domestic Insurance Company. Angelina C. Rillorta, the respondent, lent the complainant the record of Criminal Case No. 3377 (*People vs. Marlene Agdeppa*) in order that she (the complainant) could get the information necessary for Agdeppa's bail application. David was able to accomplish the document for the bail bond only at around 4:00 p.m. At the time, Judge Fe Albano Madrid, the presiding judge of the RTC of Santiago City, Branch 21, had already left. The respondent thus advised the complainant to return in the morning to secure Judge Madrid's approval of the bail bond. The complainant went home, inadvertently bringing with her the record of Criminal Case No. 3377.

The complainant returned the record to the respondent the following morning. The respondent lost no time in berating the complainant "like a child." Even as the latter apologized, the former could not be appeased. The respondent humiliated the complainant in front of the other court employees. The respondent then reported the incident to Judge Madrid, who calmly instructed her staff to be more diligent in handling court records.

Aggrieved, the complainant filed the instant complaint against the respondent. As summarized by the Court Administrator, the complainant likewise alleges that:

1. The respondent is nice only to those litigants who are either rich or well-known in the locality;
2. The respondent asks for money, ranging from P1,500.00 to P3,000.00 depending on the amount of the recommended bail, from the complainant's superior upon approval of the bail bonds;