

EN BANC

[A.C. No. 4826, April 30, 1999]

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO REMOVE ATTY. JOSE A. GRAPILON AS PRESIDENT, INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES. ROSALINDA VILLARUEL, ASUNCION ILAGAN, ROSALINDA VILLARUEL, ROBERTO MANUSON, EVELYN MELGAR, NIDA PEÑARANDA, THELMA PADILLA, MARY LOU MANATLAO, HERMINIO CEPILLO, CRISTINA NALDA, TERISITA PERALTA, EDEN ENCINARES, GLORIA COUSART, EMMA PAGUNSAN, AND DELIA MORTERA (EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE, INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES), COMPLAINANTS VS. ATTY. JOSE A. GRAPILON AND THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES BOARD OF GOVERNORS, RESPONDENTS.

RESOLUTION

VITUG, J.:

For the Court's consideration is a motion for partial reconsideration of the resolution of 27 January 1999, filed by respondents Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the IBP Board of Governors, praying thus:

"a. Dismissing petitioners' complaints against respondent IBP Board and declaring the Honorable Court as without original jurisdiction to pass upon the termination dispute between petitioners and respondent IBP Board; or in the alternate;

"b. Upholding the dismissal of petitioners as valid; and

"c. Recalling the penalty of admonition imposed by the Honorable Court on respondent IBP Board.

"Other just and equitable reliefs are likewise prayed for."^[1]

In sum, movants aver that this Court has erred in taking cognizance of the "termination dispute" between petitioners and respondents, as well as in ordering the former's reinstatement, and in admonishing the IBP Board of Governors for failing to comply with the *status quo ante* order of 03 February 1998.

There is partial merit in the motion for reconsideration.

On the issue of jurisdiction over the dismissal from employment of petitioners, the matter has been extensively discussed in the questioned resolution, and the Court finds no cogent reason to reconsider its opting exercise jurisdiction thereover. The Court neither sees justification for recalling its admonition on the IBP Board of Governors. The *status quo ante* order in the resolution of 03 February 1998 has clearly mandated that the IBP Board of Governors maintain the suspension with pay