

RICARDO S. OCAMPO, COMPLAINANT, VS. ALFREDO N. CUBA, RESPONDENT.*Adm. Case No. 2001. August 24, 1984*

Ponente: AQUINO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/338741bb3827/>**AQUINO, J.:**

Alfredo N. Cuba, admitted to the bar in 1961, was charged on January 26, 1979 by Ricardo S. Ocampo with having notarized a deed of extrajudicial settlement although Ocampo allegedly did not appear before him. The National Bureau of Investigation in its questioned documents report dated April 23, 1976 found that Ocampo's signature in the deed was not genuine (Exh. D).

The deed was acknowledged before Cuba on September 30, 1970 by Basilio Ocampo and his sons, Ricardo (complainant) and Jose, as heirs of Juliana Sunglao, wife of Basilio. It involved the conjugal lot with an area of 150 square meters located at 2281 Romblon Street, Sampaloc, Manila and the house thereon where the signatories resided.

At the same time, in that deed, Basilio and Ricardo transferred their interests to Jose in consideration of his assumption of the mortgage debt of P3,000 to the Development Bank of the Philippines. It was also signed by Jose's wife Andrea and Ricardo's wife Francisca. The number of Ricardo's residence certificate appears in the notarial acknowledgment.

Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, in his opinion of February 11, 1977, found that Cuba's indictment for falsification in a criminal case pending in the Manila Court of First Instance appears to be unjustified (Exh. E).

Cuba, a lawyer in the legal department of the Philippine American Life Insurance Company, notarized the deed at the instance of Jose S. Ocampo, his fellow employee. When the deed was presented to him, it was already signed. He asked the parties and witnesses, including Ricardo, whether they acknowledged the signatures appearing therein. They answered in the affirmative. He asked them to produce their residence certificates. He instructed his clerk to enter the document in his notarial register. He did not charge any notarial fee.

He presented in evidence the report of the Constabulary Crime Laboratory which found to be genuine the signature of complainant Ricardo S. Ocampo in the deed (Exh. 7), thus contradicting the NBI report (Exh. D).

The father, Basilio, owned a two-thirds interest in the property and the sons, Ricardo and Jose, a one-sixth interest each. It is difficult to believe that the father would sanction an injustice against his son, Ricardo, just to favor his other son, Jose.

We find that respondent Cuba acted in good faith and that there is no cause for disciplinary action against him (*Monterey vs. Arayata and Montoya*, 61 Phil. 820, 821). Strong, complete and conclusive proof is necessary to overthrow a notarial document (*Robinson vs. Villafuerte*, 18 Phil. 171, 190).

WHEREFORE, as recommended by the Solicitor General, the complaint for disbarment is dismissed.

SO ORDERED.

Concepcion, Jr., Escolin, Gutierrez, Jr.,[*] and Cuevas, JJ., concur.

Makasiar and Guerrero, JJ., on leave.

Abad Santos, J., no part.

[*] designated to sit in the Second Division

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.