

JUDGE ANTONIO P. PAREDES, EXECUTIVE JUDGE, CITY COURT OF MANILA, COMPLAINANT, VS. ATILANO BARROZO, BRANCH CLERK OF COURT, RESPONDENT.

A.M. No. P-2457. April 27, 1981

Ponente: AQUINO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/bdbd256910bd/>

AQUINO, J.:

This is an administrative complaint for neglect of duty. On January 8, 1981, Danilo Guevarra was charged in the city court of Manila (traffic court Branch XI) with a violation of section 1156 of the Revised Ordinances of Manila for having used the sidewalk as his place of business (Criminal Case No. 156706).

Arraigned on that same day, Guevarra, who was under detention, pleaded not guilty. Atilano Barrozo, the branch clerk of court, forwarded the case to the executive judge of the city court six days later or on January 14.

Under Circular No. 3 of this Court dated April 24, 1975, it was Barrozo's duty to forward the said case without delay to the executive judge for inclusion in the raffle.

On January 16, the executive judge asked Barrozo to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for his delay in transmitting the case. The delay resulted in Guevarra's detention for six days.

In his answer, Barrozo alleged that Guevarra and two others were accused in one information. His two co-accused pleaded guilty but Guevarra pleaded not guilty. The record of the case was taken to the cashier's office so that the two accused, who had pleaded guilty, could pay the fine. That circumstance delayed the transmittal of the case to the executive judge. Barrozo manifested that he had no deliberate intent to delay the raffling of the case and that the delay was allegedly due to oversight.

We find that Barrozo is guilty of inexcusable neglect of duty in not complying with the requirement of Circular No. 3 for the immediate transmittal of the record of Guevarra's case to the executive judge for raffling. That delay prejudiced the accused.

WHEREFORE, as recommended by the Court Administrator, Justice Lorenzo Relova, and complainant executive judge, respondent Barrozo is ordered to pay a fine equivalent to his compensation for twenty days. He is warned that a more severe penalty will be imposed upon him for the commission of another irregularity. A copy of this resolution should be attached to his personal record.

SO ORDERED.

Barredo (Chairman), Concepcion Jr., Fernandez and De Castro, JJ., concur.

Abad Santos, J., is abroad.

Fernandez, J., was 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.