

DOMINADOR N. CALAMBA II, COMPLAINANT, VS. ATTY. MARTIN V. DELGRA, JR., RESPONDENT.*Adm. Case No. 1656. July 29, 1977*

Ponente: FERNANDO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/cbdf7670329d/>**FERNANDO, J.:**

A rather unique feature of this administrative complaint for immorality as well as malpractice filed against respondent Martin V. Delgra, Jr., was that complainant was a third party, not the alleged victim. The basis for the former was his relationship with a certain Francisca Cañada with whom he was alleged to have lived maritally for some time without benefit of clergy, as a result of which two children were born, her consent to such relationship being based on a promise of his loving her "until death" but which thereafter was conveniently forgotten. An affidavit was signed by her to that effect. It was apparently written by a person with more than just a cursory acquaintance with the English language. The malpractice complaint was based on the alleged acquisition through fraud by him of a parcel of land in Davao City. Respondent was required to answer. The charge of immorality he sought to meet by a retraction from Francisca Cañada, who in her affidavit, very likely prepared likewise for her, asserted: "that while Atty. Martin Delgra, Jr. and I were not lucky to be married, perhaps by the will of fate, I am still proud of him and grateful to him, especially that with his attention our two children, [Nimfa] and [Fe Luchi], have graduated from college with honors: [Nimfa] having graduated from Colegio de San Jose-Recoletos in April, 1970, with the degree of B.S.C., cum laude, and [Fe Luchi] from the University of San Carlos in March, 1975 with the degree of B.S.C., also cum laude, and the latter -- by the grace of God, and with his father's attention -- recently passed the Board for C.P.A." [1] There was a denial therein of the alleged acquisition through fraud of the parcel of land "for being unsubstantiated."

The matter was then referred to the Office of the Solicitor General for investigation, report and recommendation on May 27, 1977. Acting Solicitor General Vicente V. Mendoza [2] submitted his report and recommendation thus: "On February 17, 1977, the complainant, Dominador N. Calamba II, filed a motion to dismiss his complaint in the above-entitled case for the reason that the respondent, Atty. Martin V. Delgra, Jr., had died at Cebu City on February 7, 1977. On March 7, 1977, this Honorable Court issued a resolution referring the said motion to dismiss to the Solicitor General for appropriate action. On April 20, 1977, the Office of the Solicitor General sent a letter to the Chief of Police of Cebu City requesting him to conduct an investigation to ascertain whether it was Atty. Martin V. Delgra, Jr. who had reportedly died on February 7, 1977, and if so, to furnish our Office with a certified true copy of the death certificate of the said person. * * * On May 23, 1977, the Office of the Solicitor General received an 'Investigation Report' from Capt. Benjamin A. Ibones of the Cebu Metro Police District, to the effect that it was Atty. Martin V. Delgra, Jr. who had died at Chong Hua Hospital, Cebu City, on February 7, 1977, and to which report was attached a certified true copy of the death certificate of Atty. Martin V. Delgra, Jr. * * * [Wherefore], in view of the death of the respondent, Atty. Martin V. Delgra, Jr., it is respectfully recommended that the above-entitled case be dismissed and considered closed." [3]

WHEREFORE, the administrative complaint is dismissed. Let a copy of this resolution be entered on the bar

record of the deceased respondent, the late Martin V. Delgra, Jr.

Barredo, Antonio, Aquino, Concepcion, Jr., and Santos, JJ., concur.

[1] Exhibit I, 1.

[2] He was assisted by Assistant Solicitor General Nathanael P. de Pano, Jr. and Solicitor Francisco J. Bautista.

[3] Report and Recommendation, 1-2.

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.