

A Judicial Studies Programme (JSP) Seminar

Civil and Criminal Justice Reform in the Philippines

Poncevic M. Ceballos

Professor, Ateneo Law School, Manila, Philippines

Thursday 5 March 2015, 17:00-18:30

Small Moot Court, Room 723, Cheng Yu Tung Tower

The University of Hong Kong

Civil and criminal process in the Philippines has often been criticised for being time consuming and costly. Civil cases have routinely taken years before a judgment at first instance, let alone on appeal. This has been due in large part to trials being overridden with technicality and judges adopting a merely passive role in case management. Nor have criminal trials fared any better. This is despite the fact that personal liberty is often at stake, with many impoverished but innocent individuals (who are unable to afford bail) languishing in over-crowded prisons and unsanitary conditions awaiting much-delayed verdicts.

Recently, the Supreme Court has taken steps to alleviate this unacceptable situation. The seminar will evaluate the reforms that the Supreme Court has introduced to speed up civil and criminal cases. It will (among others) consider the Judicial Affidavit Rule that came into effect in 2013 in civil and criminal actions. The seminar will consider the extent to which changes have been beneficial and to what extent the recent measures need to be boosted. Finally, the seminar will gauge the reactions of Philippine lawyers to what has been happening.



Professor Poncevic Ceballos is Professor of Law at the Ateneo School of Law, Associate Dean of the Philippine Christian University Law School, and managing partner of Ceballos Law Firm. He was formerly Dean of the Liceo Law School in Cagayan de Oro (Mindanao). He specialises in corporate law, litigation practice, labour law and mediation.

**** ALL ARE WELCOME ****

Please click [here](#) for online registration to reserve a place.
For inquiries, please email Joyce Fung at joycef@hku.hk