The Davide Impeachment Case: Restating Judicial Supremacy over Constitutional Questions

Maricris C. Ang Mark Leinad R. Enojo Divina Gracia P. de la Cerna Rosalyn C. Rayco 48 ATENEO L.J. 806 (2003)

Subject(s): Judiciary, Accountability Keyword(s): Impeachment, Chief Justice

In light of what was perceived as a looming constitutional crisis at the height of Chief Justice Hilario Davide's impeachment, different parties pursued various options to break the impasse between the Legislature and the Judiciary. While lawmakers and politicians believed that a political solution was the most appropriate, several parties chose to submit the controversy for judicial determination. Premised upon a belief that an authoritative and substantial decision from the Court would resolve the issues with finality, said judicial option was invoked. This Comment uses the case *Francisco v. House of Representatives* as a jumping point to show that the act of seeking a resolution within the legal framework rather than a political compromise affirms the belief in the supremacy of the Constitution and the law over politics and personalities.

The Comment concludes that the Court, in acting swiftly yet decisively, established the supremacy not of the Judiciary, but of law – maintaining its credibility, integrity, and independence.