

New Problems of an Old Profession

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In this Article, former Dean Montemayor articulates the uneasy topic of loss of glamour that the legal profession is experiencing. He uses the metaphor of Don Pepito, then a forbidding figure in society to whom everyone repairs in time of need, who is, several years after, reproduced into a host of similar others so much so that he did not seem to be that important anymore. Thus, the Author quips: has the law profession lost its importance. Here, he answers in the negative. He suggests instead that lawyers should have a more positive and dynamic attitude towards their profession. Pursuant to this concept, the lawyer evolves from a mere advocate or defender into an organizer, one whose basic function is to help establish and maintain order in human acts and relations. More particularly, he enjoins all lawyers to constantly study our laws and legal institutions and work to make them more suited and responsive to the needs and common good of the Filipinos. In order to do these, he asserts that they must not only be competent in law, but even in culture, philosophy, character, nationalism and Christian zeal. Indeed, he adds that aside from being just professionals, they must be leaders and crusaders.