

## Emerging From Secrecy Space: From Bank Secrecy to Financial Transparency

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The global trend towards financial transparency finds heightened significance especially at these times of financial crisis, which is likewise experienced globally. This, coupled with the global campaign against international crimes and terrorism, has caused the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to blacklist the Philippines as one of the countries considered as tax havens. As such, the Philippines, along with other countries, has been required to conform to the international tax reporting standard. This sparked the recent enactment of the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 10021), which Authorized the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to inquire into bank deposits and relay such to requesting foreign counterparts.

In light of these recent trends and the enactment of the aforementioned law, this Note aims to examine the history of the bank secrecy law, its evolution, and ultimately, how it impacts and finds significance in today's movement towards financial transparency. In the process, the secrecy world shall be defined in relation to bank deposits. In addition, the exceptions to the bank secrecy law shall be enumerated and examined in order to discover the rationale behind such immunity. Consequently, the problems which arise from the adoption of a more transparent financial system shall be studied and shall be reduced to the principal issues of privacy and financial isolation.

The Conclusion concerns the necessity of the adoption of a more transparent financial system vis-à-vis the problems of privacy and financial isolation.