

The Judiciary and the Challenges of the Times

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The Article focuses its discussion on the role of the Judiciary in the collective struggle of the society to revitalize and to give a new meaning to the Philippine democracy. It opens by giving a brief background on the challenges of times, particularly, the 1986 EDSA Revolution, which left a variety of societal problems, including but not limited to massive poverty, corruption, public distrust to the government, and a disjointed political system. It proceeds by looking into the role of the Judiciary in a democratic constitutional government, with emphasis placed on its being an *ultimate guardian* of order and rule of law. The Article also tackles the role of the Judiciary vis-à-vis the right of every citizen to justice, as embodied in the different constitutionally protected rights of the people.

It also examines the blueprint for judicial reform, as follows: (1) its objectives; (2) the judicial independence; (3) the steps taken toward a moral and competent judiciary; and (4) the goal of having an efficient court system. Lastly, the Article delves into matters beyond the court-bound reforms, particularly, people's right to access the courts, and how the Writ of Amparo becomes an instrument for the judicial system to serve as a refuge of the rights of Filipinos.