

On “Ethics Among Judges”

Alejandro de Santos

9 ATENEO L.J. 330 (1960)

SUBJECT(S): ETHICS, LEGAL PROFESSION

KEYWORD(S): JUDICIAL ETHICS, BUENAVENTURA V. SANTOS

The Article represents the reaction of the Author to an editorial, which described as unethical the decision of a district judge to reverse an order of the vacation judge who temporarily presided over the court. The case referred to is *Buenaventura v. Santos*, and it is Judge Palma's order of setting aside Judge Domingo's order approving the appeal bond and record on appeal that invited criticism on the ground of breach of judicial ethics. De Santos, in his work, disagrees. To the contrary, he is of the view that it was Judge Domingo who showed partiality which is unbecoming of a judge. He asserts that while Judge Palma's order was based on sound law and absolute deference to precedence set by the Supreme Court, Judge Domingo's order did not only refuse to follow precedent, it made it appear that the same is but the opinion of a single judge and not the majority of the members of the Court. The Article parts with a reminder that notwithstanding the existence of a dissenting opinion, the decision of the requisite majority of the Supreme Court is still the decision of the highest court of the land to which a lower court must pay due respect and observance.