

The Jurisdiction of Philippine Courts

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9 ATENEO L.J. 101 (1959)

SUBJECT(S): REMEDIAL

KEYWORD(S): COURTS, JURISDICTION

This Article deals with the concept of jurisdiction as it relates to courts in the country. Defined as the authority to hear and determine a cause, or the right to act in a case, the same is herein distinguished from the following concepts, namely: exercise of jurisdiction, power or authority of judge to preside, inherent powers of court, and procedure. Its kinds are also enumerated, thus, it may be general, original, exclusive, concurrent or coordinate, territorial, jurisdiction of the person, jurisdiction of the res, jurisdiction of the subject-matter, and jurisdiction of the issue. It is acquired in different ways depending on its object, which may be the person, subject matter, res, issue of the case, or appellate jurisdiction. The Author makes clear that while jurisdiction over the person and over the issues may be the subject of agreement between the parties, the same does not hold true with jurisdiction over the subject matter. The work proceeds to delineate the particular jurisdiction of Philippine Courts, beginning with the Supreme Court, followed by the Court of Appeals, Courts of First Instance, and Justices of the Peace and Judges of Municipal Courts.