[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10544, May 15, 2013]

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARGAO, PROVINCE OF CEBU, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Two (2) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Argao, Cebu, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Seventh Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.

SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Courts program the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the Courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the Courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. Section 14(h) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980?, as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed, modified and/or further amended.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

(Sgd.) **FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.**
Speaker of the House of Representatives

(Sgd.) **JUAN PONCE ENRILE**
President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 3031 and House Bill No. 6862 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on October 15, 2012 and February 6, 2013, respectively.

(Sgd.) **MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP**

(Sgd.) **EDWIN B. BELLEN**
Acting Senate Secretary