

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7662, December 23, 1993]

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REFORMS IN LEGAL EDUCATION,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Legal Education Reform Act of 1993."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uplift the standards of legal education in order to prepare law students for advocacy, counselling, problem-solving, and decision-making; to infuse in them the ethics of the legal profession; to impress upon them the importance, nobility and dignity of the legal profession as an equal and indispensable partner of the Bench in the administration of justice; and, to develop socially-committed lawyers with integrity and competence.

Towards this end, the State shall undertake appropriate reforms in the legal education system, require proper selection of law students, maintain quality among law schools, and require legal apprenticeship and continuing legal education.

SEC. 3. *General and Specific Objectives of Legal Education.* -

a. Legal Education in the Philippines is geared to attain the following general objectives:

1. to prepare students for the practice of law;
2. to increase awareness among members of the legal profession of the needs of the poor, deprived and oppressed sectors of society;
3. to train persons for leadership;
4. to contribute towards the promotion and advancement of justice and the improvement of its administration, the legal system and legal institutions in the light of the historical and contemporary development of law in the Philippines and in other countries.

b. Legal education shall aim to accomplish the following specific objectives:

1. to impart among law students a broad knowledge of law and its various fields, and of legal institutions;
2. to enhance their legal research abilities to enable them to analyze, articulate and apply the law effectively, as well as to allow them to have a holistic approach to legal problems and issues;

3. to prepare law students for advocacy, counselling, problem-solving and decision-making, and develop their ability to deal with recognized legal problems of the present and the future;
4. to develop competence in any field of law as is necessary for gainful employment or sufficient as a foundation for future training beyond the basic professional degree, and to develop in them the desire and capacity for continuing study and self- improvement;
5. to inculcate in them the ethics and responsibilities of the legal profession; and
6. to produce lawyers who conscientiously pursue the lofty goals of their profession and faithfully adhere to its ethical norms.

SEC. 4. *Legal Education Board; Creation and Composition.* — To carry out the purposes of this Act, there is hereby created the Legal Education Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, attached solely for budgetary purposes and administrative support to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

The Board shall be composed of a Chairman, who shall preferably be a former justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals, and the following as regular members: a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Professors (PALP); a representative from the ranks of active law practitioners; and, a representative from the law students' sector. The Secretary of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, or his representative, shall be an ex officio member of the Board.

With the exception of the representative of the law students' sector, the Chairman and regular members of the Board must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and members of the Philippine Bar, who have been engaged for at least ten (10) years in the practice of law, as well as in the teaching of law in a duly authorized or recognized law school.

SEC. 5. *Term of Office; Compensation.* — The Chairman and regular members of the Board shall be appointed by the President for a term of five (5) years without reappointment from a list of at least three (3) nominees prepared, with prior authorization from the Supreme Court, by the Judicial and Bar Council, for every position or vacancy, and no such appointment shall need confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Of those first appointed, the Chairman and the representative of the IBP shall hold office for five (5) years; the representatives of the PALS and the PALP for three (3) years; and the representative from the ranks of active law practitioners and the representative of the law students' sector for one (1) year, without reappointment. Appointments to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the predecessor.

The Chairman and regular members of the Board shall have the same salary and rank as the Chairman and members, respectively, of the Constitutional Commissions: *Provided*, That their salaries shall not be diminished during their term of office.

SEC. 6. *Office and Staff Support.* — The Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall provide the necessary office and staff support to the Board, with a principal office to be located in Metropolitan Manila.