



THE CORONA IMPEACHMENT

The Articles of Impeachment

On 12 December 2011 a verified impeachment complaint was filed against Chief Justice Renato Corona. The complaint was signed by 188 of the 284-member House of Representatives, almost double the 1/3 minimum requirement to merit the direct transmittal of the articles of impeachment to the Senate.

The complaint constitutes eight articles on the grounds of betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution, and graft and corruption as provided for in Sec. 2, Article XI of the Constitution.

The eight articles of impeachment allege that:

Article I

Respondent betrayed the public trust through his track record marked by partiality and subservience in cases involving the Arroyo Administration from the time of his appointment as Supreme Court Justice and until his dubious appointment as a midnight Chief Justice to the present.

Article II

Respondent committed culpable violation of the Constitution and/or betrayed the public trust when he failed to disclose to the public his statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth as required under Sec.17, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution

Article III

Respondent committed culpable violations of the Constitution and betrayed the public trust by failing to meet and observe the stringent standards under Art. VIII, Section 7 (3) of the Constitution that provides that, “[A] member of the judiciary must be a person of proven competence, integrity, probity, and independence” in allowing the Supreme Court to act on mere letters filed by a counsel which caused the issuance of flip-flopping decisions in final and executor cases; in creating an excessive entanglement with Mrs. Arroyo through her appointment of his wife to office; and in discussing with litigants regarding cases pending before the Supreme Court.

Article IV

Respondent betrayed the public trust and/or committed culpable violation of the Constitution when he blatantly disregarded the principle of separation of powers by issuing a “status quo ante” order against the House of Representatives in the case concerning the impeachment of then Ombudsman Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez.

Article V

Respondent betrayed the public trust through wanton arbitrariness and partiality in consistently

disregarding the principle of *res judicata* in the cases involving the 16 newly-created cities, and the promotion of Dinagat Islands into a province.

Article VI

Respondent betrayed the public trust by arrogating unto himself, and to a committee he created, the authority and jurisdiction to improperly investigate a justice of the Supreme Court for the purpose of exculpating him. Such authority and jurisdiction is properly reposed by the Constitution in the House of Representatives *via* impeachment

Article VII

Respondent betrayed the public trust through his partiality in granting a temporary restraining order (TRO) in favor of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo in order to give them an opportunity to escape prosecution and to frustrate the ends of justice, and in distorting the Supreme Court decision on the effectivity of the TRO in view of a clear failure to comply with the conditions of the Supreme Court's own TRO.

Article VIII

Respondent betrayed the public trust and/or committed graft and corruption when he failed to account for the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) and Special Allowance for the Judiciary (SAJ) collections.