



LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD

Suite 1102, Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila 1000

LEB MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 9

Series of 2017

Subject: **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON THE CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREES (LL.D.)**

In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7662 otherwise known as the "Legal Reform Education Act of 1993", Section 57 of LEB Memorandum Order No. 1, and by virtue of Resolution No. 2017-86 issued by the Legal Education Board on January 10, 2017, the following polices and guidelines on the conferment of honorary degrees are hereby adopted by the Board for the guidance and compliance of all law schools in the Philippines:

Section 1. Definition. - The honorary degree Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, designated as "LL.D. (h.c.)" is an extraordinary academic degree awarded by a legal education institution¹ to an eminent individual of integrity who has distinguished him/herself in the field of law, justice administration, governance, leadership, or public service through outstanding work and/or exemplary service to society. The honorary degree may be conferred posthumously to the honoree who may or may not be an alumnus of the conferring institution.

Section 2. Authority to Confer. - A Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* can be conferred upon resolution by the Board of Trustees or the governing board of a legal education institution, with approval of the Legal Education Board, provided that the legal education institution:

- (a) Must have existed as a higher education institution for a period of at least twenty-five (25) years, and
- (b) Must have a well-acknowledged academic reputation and institutional values and mission, as determined by the Legal Education Board.

Section 3. Conferment. - A Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* must be formally conferred in an appropriate ceremony as may be determined by the awarding legal education institution.

Section 4. Qualifications of Prospective Honorees. - All prospective honorees must have the following qualifications:

- (a) He/She must be generally recognized as a person of integrity;
- (b) He/She must have distinguished him/herself in the field of law, justice administration, governance, leadership, or public service; and

¹ This includes law schools that are operated by private universities or colleges, state universities or colleges (SUCs), and local universities or colleges (LUCs).

- (c) He/She must have at least a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. It is not necessary for the honoree to be a lawyer or law graduate.

Section 5. Disqualifications. - Incumbent administrators, members of the faculty, and staff of the awarding legal education institution are disqualified from being nominated for a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*. Incumbent members of the Legal Education Board are likewise disqualified from such nomination.

Section 6. Request for Authority: Procedure. - A legal education institution which intends to confer a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* must file a written request for authority with the Legal Education Board at least three (3) months before the scheduled conferment. The request for authority must be addressed to the Chairman of the Legal Education Board and supported by the following documents:

- i. Curriculum vitae and list of accomplishments of the nominee,
- ii. Justification of the conferment of the award to the candidate; and
- iii. Resolution of the Board of Trustees/Governing Board.

The Legal Education Board shall deliberate and decide on the request for authority not later than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed conferment.

Section 7. Grounds for Denial of Request for Authority. - The Legal Education Board has the prerogative to deny, withdraw, withhold, or declare null and void the conferment of a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* on any of the following grounds:

- i. The prospective honoree does not meet the qualifications stated under Sections 1 and 4;
- ii. The prospective honoree is disqualified under Section 5;
- iii. Any of the submitted credentials are fabricated; or
- iv. The prospective honoree's conduct or stand on certain issues is inconsistent with or in contravention of the rule of law, ethics, public policy, and/or public morals.

Section 8. Sanctions. - Any legal education institution which awards a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* in violation of this LEBMO shall be subjected to sanctions, including but not limited to the suspension of the privilege of granting honorary degrees for at least five (5) years.

Section 9. Applicability. - This LEBMO shall be applicable to all legal education institutions in the Philippines, including those that are granted autonomous and deregulated status.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This LEBMO shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation and deposit with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar at the UP Law Center.

January 10, 2017, City of Manila, Philippines.


EMERSON S. AQUENDE
Chairman