



LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD

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

LEB MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 19

Series of 2018

Subject: **MIGRATION OF THE BASIC LAW COURSE TO JURIS DOCTOR**

By virtue of, and pursuant to, Resolution No. 2018-370, adopted by the Legal Education Board (LEB) *En Banc* during its 96th meeting held on October 24, 2018, which reads in full as follows:

"WHEREAS, there are two basic law degrees currently in use in the Philippines – the Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) and the *Juris Doctor* (J.D.), with the latter treated as an enhanced version of the former. The use of these two academic degree titles for the graduates of the basic law course can mislead the general public to the wrong impression that lawyers who graduated with the former degree are inferior to those who graduated with the latter degree;

"WHEREAS, the Ll.B. and the J.D. degrees are both graduate degrees since only graduates of four-year bachelor degrees may be admitted by law schools in the basic law course. As such, it is inappropriate to use the Ll.B. since it creates the erroneous perception that the basic law degree is equivalent to other bachelor's level degrees;

"WHEREAS, the J.D. is considered as a professional doctorate degree and is the academic degree title used in jurisdictions where the basic law degree is a graduate-level degree, while the Ll.B. is commonly used where the entry requirement to be admitted in the basic law course is a senior high school diploma only;

"RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to completely migrate the basic law degree to Juris Doctor by:

1. ADOPTING the "Juris Doctor" as the universal academic degree for all graduates of the basic law course in the Philippines, and shall be the academic degree to be awarded or conferred by law schools to all graduating students in the basic law course beginning in the 2nd Semester of the Academic Year (AY) 2018-2019 onwards;
2. DISCONTINUE the use of the "Bachelor of Laws" degree effective at the end of the Second Semester of the AY 2018-2019;

2. RENAME the current Model Curricula for the Ll.B. and J.D. under LEBMO No. 1, Series of 2011, as the J.D. Non-Thesis Curriculum and the J.D. Thesis Curriculum, respectively;
3. CONSIDER AS EQUIVALENT to the J.D. Degree the Ll.B. Degree previously awarded to graduates of the basic law course before the issuance of this Resolution; and
4. ALLOW, subject, however, to the prior written approval by the LEB, higher education institutions with duly recognized law schools to reissue diplomas, official transcript of records, and other academic credentials for the purpose of substituting the academic degree 'Juris Doctor' for 'Bachelor of Laws';

"RESOLVED, further, to authorize the Chairman of the LEB to sign and issue such circulars and orders necessary to implement this Resolution."

the following guidelines are hereby promulgated to implement the complete migration of the basic law course to *Juris Doctor* (J.D.):

1. *Renaming of basic law course offerings* – Without changing the approved law curricula currently in use by the different law schools, the Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) and *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) courses/programs presently offered by law schools shall be renamed as *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) Non-Thesis course/program and *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) Thesis course/program, respectively.

2. *Academic degree to be conferred* - Effective in the 2nd Semester of the Academic Year (AY) 2018-2019, only the academic degree *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) shall be awarded or conferred by law schools to graduates of the basic law course in the Philippines. Law schools shall discontinue awarding or conferring the Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) degree to graduates of the basic law course.

3. *Change of name of Model Law Curricula* - The Model Curricula for the Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) and *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) courses/programs prescribed in LEBMO No. 1, Series of 2011, shall be renamed as the *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) Non-Thesis curriculum and *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) Thesis curriculum, respectively.

4. *Change of curriculum and/or course/program* – Nothing in this regulation shall be understood as authorizing a higher education institution (HEI) to change, without first getting the express approval of the LEB, -

- a. The curriculum or curricula in use by current or prospective students in the basic law course offered under its law school; and/or
- b. The basic law course/program offered, except as renamed under this regulation. Specifically, those offering the J.D. course/program (now J.D. Thesis course/program) shall first secure the approval of the LEB before offering the Ll.B. course/program (now J.D. Non-Thesis course/program) and vice versa.



5. *Equivalency of degrees* – The Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) degree awarded or conferred to graduates of the basic law course by HEI with recognized law schools prior to the adoption of Resolution No. 2018-370 by the LEB are considered and declared as equivalent to the *Juris Doctor* (J.D.) degree.

6. *Reissuance of academic credentials* – HEIs with law schools duly recognized by the LEB that previously awarded or conferred the Bachelor of Laws (Ll.B.) degree may apply with the LEB for authorization and permission to reissue diplomas, official transcript of records, and other academic credentials for the purpose of substituting “Juris Doctor” for “Bachelor of Laws”, subject to the following requirements:

- a. The application shall be signed under oath by the President of the HEI;
- b. The governing board of the HEI shall issue and submit to the LEB a copy of the Board Resolution that expressly authorizes the application to be filed; and
- c. The payment of the applicable fees.

Issued on December 1, 2018 in Quezon City, Philippines.


EMERSON B. AQUENDE
Chairman