

The Commercial Ends that Motivate the Legal Profession: An Alternative Model to Understanding the Rules that Govern the Practice of Law

Allan Verman Y. Ong

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The practice of law is governed by a myriad of precepts and regulations: the Code of Professional Responsibility, Rule 139-B of the Revised Rules of Court on Disbarment and Discipline of Attorneys, judicial decisions, statutes, the Constitution, treaties, and publications. These regulations chart a “moral science” which embodies the duties that a client owes to the court, to his client, to his colleagues in the profession, and to the public.

This Note suggests an alternative paradigm with which to view the rules that govern the practice of law. By engaging in a historical investigation of the practice of law and by a comparison of the rules that govern the practice of law with various pieces of legislation in Commercial Law, Political Law, and Civil Law, one can observe that the philosophical underpinnings of the rules that govern the practice of law is not so much with the end of regulating the practice of law as a profession, but acknowledges that the practice of law as something more than merely a profession.