

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAFAEL CRESCENCIO C. TAN, JR. JAGS (RES)



Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Crescencio C Tan Jr JAGS (RES) is a graduate of Silliman University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree, major in Mathematics (1970) and Bachelor of Laws, (1988). He also completed his Master of Public Administration degree from Silliman University, one of the first graduates of such course at Silliman under the local scholarship program of the Civil Service Commission, first batch. He is the founding president of the alumni of such program in Region 7.

LTC TAN started his professional career as a High School Teacher at Silliman University High School from 1970 to 1973. In 1974, he took the Philippine Army Direct Commission Examination wherein he topped the said exam and became the basis for his being sent to the Officer Cadet School in Portsea, Victoria, Australia for one year officership training, graduating number 6 in a class of 61 cadets coming from 15 countries. He is the only Filipino, to have graduated in the top ten of the said school, which has never been equaled until this date. In his senior class, he was designated as a Color Sergeant. He also received a bronze medal for soccer playing. He was commissioned in the regular force of the Philippine Army and served it well until 1989 when he



resigned his regular commission as a Captain when he became a lawyer. He was a Major in the reserve force of the Philippine Army when he was subsequently commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel in the Judge Advocate General Service (JAGS) in 2016. It was while an ROTC Commandant at Silliman University in 1984 to 1988, that he studied law and graduated with a law degree. He then took the Bar examination in the same year that he graduated and passed the said examination with a rating of 81.35 percent when the highest at that time was only 88%. Not bad for one who only had a self-review for such examination.

LTC TAN then joined the Department of Justice as a Prosecution Attorney and was promoted to Assistant City Prosecutor of Dumaguete until 1999 when he was appointed as the Presiding Judge of the Municipal Trial Court of Sibulan, Negros Oriental. In 2002, barely three years as a Municipal Judge, he was awarded by the Foundation for Judicial Excellence and the Supreme Court of the Philippines as Most Outstanding MTC Judge of the Philippines. He was promoted as

the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 30, a Special Court for Drug cases in July 21, 2005. Ten years later, he was awarded the Chief Justice Cayetano Award for Judicial Excellence as lone Outstanding RTC Judge for 2015. Prior to his retirement last July 1, 2019, he had the distinct honor of his court having a zero case load as of December 31, 2018. For two years from 2008 to 2010, LTC Tan was the designated Regional Court Administrator for the pilot 7th Judicial Region Court Administration Office based in Lapu-lapu City.

His independence, intelligence, industry, and integrity in his professional career as a Regional Trial Court Judge of a Special Court for Drug Cases have merited for him several awards from government and non-government entities. Among these are the 2010 Manila Times and the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, Inc Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Excellence for his outstanding contribution to the *Tsinoy* (Chinese Filipino) community and the Filipino society, for excellence in the field of public service where he has demonstrated professional excellence and peerless leadership, pioneering zeal, service and commitment to the nation; the 2010 Outstanding Oriental Negrense Award for Excellence in the field of government service/public service given by the province of Negros Oriental during the Buglasan Festival, (his wife also received the 2016 Outstanding Oriental Negrense Award for Excellence in the field of Educational Management); the August 25, 2012 sole awardee from the College of Law, Silliman University as Outstanding SULAW awardee in the field of government service-judiciary for his proven dedication and commitment in the administration of justice, for his independence, intelligence, integrity and industry in his professional career and for his exemplary achievements to the judiciary and the community as the true embodiment of Silliman University's motto, "Via, Veritas, Vita" and an exemplification of the College of Law's guiding principle of "Law with a Conscience," during Silliman University's 111th Founders Day; the November 22, 2012 Outstanding Dumaguette Award in the field of law on the occasion of Dumaguete City's Charter Day; and the Ulirang Ama Awardee 2016 for Law and Judiciary given by the Ulirang Ina/Ama Awards Foundation, Inc. to Outstanding Filipino Fathers of significant achievement in their respective field of endeavor and/or career combining this successfully with the task of caring for the family on the occasion of the International celebration of Father's Day, held at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel on June 19, 2016. His wife is also an Ulirang Ina/Awardee 2016 for Education, making them a couple awardee, just like in the Oriental Negrense Awards.

LTC TAN has attended several seminars and conferences, here and abroad. In the United States, he attended the Academy of American and International Law (1992) and the 1st Academy of American and International Technology Law at the Center for American and International Law at Dallas, Texas (2001) and the Seminar on Trauma Awareness and Recovery Program at the Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia (2004), together with his wife. In Japan, he attended The APEC Training Program on Industrial Property Rights [The Advance Course for IP Practitioners (2002) sponsored by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) and the Asia-Pacific Industrial Property Center of the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII). He has attended the Asian Christian Faculty Fellowship in Chang Mai, Thailand (2002), Chennai, India (2004) and Hongkong, China (2006). Last year, he attended a seminar on New Public Management, at the International Academy for Leadership at Gummersbach, Germany, sponsored by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

LTC TAN is a recipient of several awards and commendations, while he was still with the military service, receiving military merit medals, the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Campaign Medals, Disaster and Relief Rehabilitation Medal and the Combat Commander (Kagitingan) Badge. As a

Judge, he was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Negros Oriental Chapter in 2003. He was also a recipient of the Centennial Award of the Negros Oriental High School where he obtained his high school education. As a reservist officer, LTC Tan continues to receive several awards and commendation for his volunteer work as a *Laang Kawal*, such as the Chief of Staff Commendation Medal, the Gawad sa Kaunlaran Medal, Military Merit Medals, Military Commendation Medals, and the COMMAND PLAQUE for having been adjudged as ARESCOM Best Reservist Officer for CY 2015 given by the Headquarters Army Reserve Command, Camp Riego de Dios, Tanza, Cavite on September 12, 2015. LTC TAN was also adjudged as Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFPRESCOM) Best Reservist Officer Field Grade Officer Level during the celebration of Reservist Month last September 19, 2021. He also received a COMMAND PLAQUE from the AFPRESCOM after the end of his five-year stint as the OIC Brigade Commander of the 5th Technical and Administrative Service Brigade Visayas (Reserve), AFPRESCOM last July 31, 2021.

LTC TAN is a lifetime member of the Knights of Rizal with the rank of Knight Commander of Rizal (KCR) and is the Chapter Chancellor of the Negros Oriental Chapter. He is also the 2nd Vice Chairperson of the Negros Oriental-Siquijor Boy Scout of the Philippines Council. He is a lifetime member of the Philippine Mental Health Association. He is currently one of five Directors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Negros Oriental Chapter. He sits in the Board of Directors of the Silliman University Community Cooperative (SUCC), the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives Visayas (PFCCO Visayas), the Negros Oriental Union of Cooperatives (NEORUNCO) and the Negros Oriental Credit Surety Fund Cooperative (NOCSFC).

LTC TAN is happily married to Dr. Betsy Joy B. Tan, retired acting President of Silliman University, with whom he has two lovely daughters, Maricris Joy Tan-Regencia, married to Larry Vincent Regencia (lives in Sibulan, Negros Oriental) and Mia Crisane Tan-Tijing, married to Leonard Tijing (lives in Sydney, Australia) and four (4) grandchildren, Madeline Clare Regencia (Mara), Sofia Amelie Tijing (Sofie), Rafael Alfred Regencia (Rafa) and Liam Ernest Tijing (Liam).

