Supreme Court E-Library

zeal and ability, the attorney may be able to amass considerable means to support himself and his family, besides the honor and prestige that accompany his office and profession. To deprive him of such honored station in life which would result in irreparable injury must require proof of the highest degree, which We find nowhere here. While courts will not hesitate to mete out proper disciplinary punishment upon lawyers who fail to live up to their sworn duties, they will, on the other hand, protect them from the unjust accusations of dissatisfied litigants. The success of a lawyer in his profession depends almost entirely on his reputation. Anything which will harm his good name is to be deplored. Private persons, and particularly disgruntled opponents, may not, therefore, be permitted to use the courts as vehicles through which to vent their rancor on members of the Bar.

WHEREFORE, this complaint for disbarment is dismissed for lack of merit.

SO ORDERED.

Teehankee (Chairman) Makasiar, Muñoz Palma, and *Fernandez, JJ.*, concur.

FIRST DIVISION

[G.R. No. L-38315. August 22, 1978]

PHILIPPINE RABBIT BUS LINES, INC., *petitioner, vs.* **DOMINGO MANIEGO, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 4, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SECTION, MANILA and WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COMMISSION,** *respondents.*

Supreme Court E-Library

SYLLABUS

LABOR AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION; WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION; CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION; SHALL BE SET ASIDE ABSENT FACTUAL OR LEGAL BASIS. — Where the records do not show: (1) that a claim for injury or sickness of an employee was filed against the employer; (2) that a copy of said claim was served on the employer; (3) that a notice was issued by the Regional Office to the employer concerning the filing of said claim; and (4) that a notice of hearing was sent to the parties, and where the employer-petitioner asserts that a similar claim for compensation was previously filed but was properly disposed of, an award for compensation against the employer will be set aside for lack of factual or legal basis and the case remanded to the Secretary of Labor for proper action.

RESOLUTION

MUÑOZ PALMA, *J.*:

The sole issue posed in this Petition for Review is one of alleged denial of procedural due process.

Petitioner asserts that without having been served with copy of a claim of Domingo Maniego and without having been given an opportunity to be heard, Acting Chief Referee Ernesto H. Cruz, Regional Office No. 4, Workmen's Compensation Commision, issued on October 10, 1973, an award for compensation against it.

We gave due course to the Petition and directed respondent Commission to forward the original records of the case of Domingo Maniego.

The records forwarded to the Court by the defunct Workmen's Compensation Commission *do not* show: (1) that a "claim for injury or sickness" of Domingo Maniego was filed against Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Inc.; (2) that copy of said claim was served on the employer; (3) that a notice was issued by Regional Office No. 4 to the employer concerning the filing of the aforesaid claim; and (4) that a notice of hearing was sent to the parties.

Supreme Court E-Library

WHEREFORE, considering that from the records of respondent Commission there is no factual and/or legal basis for an outright award in favor of Domingo Maniego, We resolve to remand this case to the Secretary, now Minister of Labor, for proper action on the alleged claim of Domingo Maniego, giving the latter and the employer, Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Inc. an opportunity to present their respective evidence. We particularly invite the Minister's attention to the assertion of petitioner herein that a similar claim for compensation was previously filed by the claimant which was properly disposed of by the Department of Labor at the time. In the meanwhile, the award in question is hereby set aside.

SO ORDERED.

Teehankee (Chairman), Makasiar, Fernandez, and *Guerrero, JJ.*, concur.

SECOND DIVISION

[G.R. No. L-40884. August 22, 1978]

THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, *plaintiff-appellee, vs.* **ROBERTO DE LEON,** ***ET AL.,*** *accused,* **ROMEO CHAVEZ,** *accused-appellant,* ***In re*** **Loss of Stenographic Notes, BERNARDINO B. BLANCAFLOR, stenographer,** *respondent.*

SYLLABUS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW; PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; STENOGRAPHER; INEFFICIENCY; SANCTION. — A fine of ₱200 may be imposed upon a stenographer who has been inefficient as shown by the fact that he failed to submit on time the transcripts of his stenographic notes, and where such