

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Excerpt from the Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Sixteenth Sangguniang Panlungsod held on December 13, 2022 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Session Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ormoc City Hall Building, Aunubing St., Cogon Ormoc City, Leyte.

**ORDINANCE NO. 093**  
**Series of 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FOR THOSE PURSUING THE DEGREE OF LAW AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Authored by: SP Member **NOLITO M. GUILANG**  
Co-Authored by: SP Members **Jasper M. Lucero**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

More than a title, "Attorney" denotes a wide array of moral obligations, liability, duty, answerability, among other things. In fact, once earned, he or she is called to participate in the development of the legal system by initiating or supporting efforts in law reform and in the improvement of the administration of justice (Canon 4, Code of Professional Responsibility)

Suzanne Sangree, a Senior Public Safety Counsel and Director of Affirmative Litigation at City of Baltimore, Department of Law, once mentioned in her article posted on the website of the American Bar Association that if state and local governments are the 'laboratories for democracy' then lawyers for cities function as the enzymes in this laboratories. She further mentioned that the lawyer's "no" can nix a novel approach to solving a problem; whereas his or her creative, "here's how we can lawfully do it," enables solutions. Undeniably, the demand for lawyers is the demand to create solutions in the complexity and the matrix of legalities in public administration.

Indeed, lawyers perform an important function and is instrumental in public administration. The LGU of Ormoc City has more than 20 departments and offices, 18 divisions, and 110 barangays. Overtime the legal needs of the city escalates requiring more lawyers to oversee and effectively handle legal concerns. While there are vacancies in the City Government, there is also fast turnover of lawyers. The fast growth of Ormoc City resulted to a number of legal challenges which made the presence of lawyers in the City Government an imperative. This problem of lack of lawyers is felt not only by the City government of Ormoc but for the other government offices and other entities in Ormoc City.

There is no other way but for local government units to be innovative in resolving this lack of lawyers. The City Government of Ormoc finds this approach effective in ensuring supply of lawyers for Ormoc City in the future.

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

The law scholarship grant meets two pronged goals. First, is to fulfill a constitutional duty of the government to make education accessible to all as prescribed under Article 14, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution. In fact in Paragraph (3) of Section 2, Article 14 of the same constitution, the government is directed to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a system of a scholarship grant, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentive which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged. Second, more than making tertiary education more accessible, the scholarship grants will also ensure supply of lawyers for Ormoc City in the future.

The Sangguniang Panlungsod, as a legislative body of the city, has the responsibility to enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the City (Section 458, LGC of 1991). Furthermore, the code provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall approve ordinances and pass resolutions necessary for and efficient and effective city government.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the 16<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Panlungsod, that:

**SECTION 1. TITLE** – This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "**LAW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ORDINANCE.**"

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** – It is the policy of the City Government of Ormoc to promote justice and rule of law in the City of Ormoc and to develop its human resources to meet the needs of its constituents and to ensure that shortage of legal practitioners and highly skilled professionals are addressed.

Toward this end, the State shall establish a post baccalaureate scholarship and return service program that will help deserving students pursue legal education and training who shall eventually render service to the Ormocanons. This shall ensure the availability of lawyers who will provide quality legal services.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS** – For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Scholarship Grant – the privilege granted by the City Government of Ormoc to poor but deserving student to pursue degree programs and post baccalaureate degrees in medicine, law/juris doctor, and other advanced/specialized studies by shouldering the expenses of tuition and other miscellaneous expenses specified in this ordinance;
- b. Bona fide resident – uninterrupted residency for at least five (5) years in Ormoc City and registered voter thereat;
- c. Partner School – refers to schools that entered into agreement or understanding with the City Government for the implementation of this ordinance.

2  
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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

- d. Immediate family – if the applicant is single/unmarried, immediate family refers to his parents and blood relatives living in same household as parents. If the applicant is married, immediate family refers to his wife and children.
- e. Poor – refers to an individual whose immediate family has an average monthly income that cannot support the desire to study and pursue a degree in law as certified by the City Social Welfare Department based on their expert determination of what is poor and indigent.

**SECTION 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE AVAILMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT**– Eligible applicants shall meet all the following qualifications at the time of application:

- a. The applicant and his/her family must be bona fide residents of the City of Ormoc defined under Section 3 of this ordinance upon submission of the application documents to avail of the scholarship grant;
- b. The applicant comes from poor family defined under Section 3 and supported by a case assessment certification issued by the City Social Welfare Department (CSWD);
- c. Finished a baccalaureate course with at least 85% as general weighted average (GWA);
- d. Must have passed the admission requirements, standards and policies of chosen partner school where the student intends to enroll in; and
- e. Should not accept other scholarship grants.

If currently enrolled in the partner schools, applicant, in addition to above qualifications, shall also meet the following qualifications:

- f. With good moral character and without any derogatory record evidenced by a certification from the Dean of the college;
- g. Not presently enjoying any scholarship or study grant except the one given by school for his/her outstanding academic performance if any as evidenced by certification from the school authority.

**SECTION 5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS** – Each grantee shall receive the scholarship benefits as follows:

- a. Payment for the tuition, miscellaneous, and other related school fees up to the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) per semester which shall be paid directly to the partner school;
- b. Book allowance in the maximum amount of FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000.00) per semester subject to accounting rules and regulations such as submission of official receipts for said purchases;



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

- c. Stipend in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) per month of schooling, which shall be paid directly to scholars;

**SECTION 6. CONDITIONS FOR MAINTAINING THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT** – Those accepted to the scholarship program shall be subject to the following conditions to maintain status as scholars under this ordinance:

- a. Must not enjoy any other scholarship grant except those incentives and benefits given by school for being honor students;
- b. Must carry the full load of subjects prescribed by school curriculum per semester;
- c. Must not fail in any course/subject;
- d. Must not drop a course/subject or get an incomplete grade in any subject which will result in under loading for succeeding semesters;
- e. Must finish the entire course program in the prescribed time frame of the partner school, subject to the retention policies of the partner school; and
- f. The Scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons preventing the enrollment, to defer availing of the scholarship and file a leave of absence for a period not exceeding one (1) school year as approved by the partner school and subject to the guidelines and policies of the Ormoc City Scholarship Board.

**SECTION 7. SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACT** – It shall also be a condition for the commencement of the scholarship program that the admitted scholar sign a scholarship contract with the City Government of Ormoc detailing the terms and conditions of the scholarship in a form prescribed by the City Government.

**SECTION 8. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANT** – The scholar shall repay the full cost of scholarship and related benefits, including all the expenses incurred during the participation in the scholarship program, and the scholarship shall be terminated in case of the following circumstances:

- a. If the scholar accepts another scholarship from other government or private agencies or entities while enjoying the benefits under this ordinance;
- b. If the scholar fails to meet the academic requirements of the partner school or to complete the degree within the prescribed period without valid cause as may be determined by the partner school and the Ormoc City Scholarship Board such as absence without notice, willful neglect or other causes within the control of the scholar;
- c. If the scholar commits behavioral misconduct in a manner that would bring significant damage to the partner school, government institutions concerned, persons and the community or that the scholar has been convicted of any crime; and



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

- d. If the scholar violates other terms and conditions enumerated under Section 7 of this Ordinance.

Provided, that if the terminated scholar chooses, instead of repayment of scholarship costs, to work within the City government or within Ormoc City in works related to his/her educational background for a period equivalent to a year of service per year of schooling subject to further guidelines issued by the Ormoc City Scholarship Board.

**SECTION 9. FUND SUPPORT FOR BAR EXAMINATION** – Those scholars who finished the law degree and wishes to receive fund support to take the bar examination shall take the bar examination within a maximum period of one (1) year after graduation from a law school.

Scholar graduates of law degree who wish to take the bar examination shall receive the maximum amount of support subject to further rules and guidelines of the City Scholarship Board, to wit:

- a. Board and lodging expenses in the amount of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00) PER MONTH for four (4) months including the period of bar examination;
- b. Bar review tuition and other authorized expenses certified by the Bar Review Center in the amount of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00); and
- c. Bar materials and other reference books in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00).

The scholar is required to sign another scholarship contract to receive support for the bar examination detailing the terms and conditions including the mandatory return service requirement. The scholar who fails to pass the bar examination on the first take shall shoulder all the necessary expenses for a retake of the said bar examination.

The Ormoc City Scholarship Board may issue additional guidelines in the grant of fund support to bar examination detailing the terms and conditions of the grant.

**SECTION 10. INCENTIVES FOR HONOR GRADUATES AND BAR TOPNOTCHERS** – The City Government of Ormoc shall grant incentives to honor graduates and topnotchers in bar examination subject to availability of funds. In the case of incentives for honor graduates, the Ormoc City Scholarship Board is granted the authority to determine the amount to be given. In the case of bar topnotchers, the City Government of Ormoc shall grant a cash incentive in the amount of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) for any scholar graduate in law degree who will land into top 10 in the results of the bar examination.

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

**SECTION 11. MANDATORY RETURN SERVICE** – Upon passing the bar examination and admission to the bar, the scholar may fulfill the return service requirement by choosing from the following options:

- a. Work with the City Government occupying the position of Attorney III or equivalent salary grade level or higher for a period equivalent to a year of service for every year of schooling subject to availability of vacant positions and other limitations provided under the law, provided that if the scholar works with the City government while enrolled in a partner school, then the said employment while studying shall be deducted from the return service requirement.
- b. Work with other government agencies or private sector in Ormoc City or will be assigned in Ormoc City for a period equivalent to a year of service for every year of schooling subject to rules and policies of the employer or agency.
- c. Handle cases endorsed by the City Government on **pro bono** subject to further rules and regulations to be issued by the City Legal Office including the number or percentage of cases that can be endorsed and possible allowances especially when the courts or quasi-judicial bodies are outside Ormoc City.

**SECTION 12. SANCTIONS** – In the event that a lawyer or government employee who has availed of the scholarship under this ordinance fails or refuses to comply with the mandatory return service prescribed in this ordinance, shall be required to pay twice the full cost of scholarship including other benefits and expenses incurred during the scholarship.

In case of non-payment, as provided in the preceding paragraph, the City Government shall report the incident to the Office of the bar Confidant of the Supreme court for disciplinary action. Provided, that the above-mentioned penalties shall not apply to lawyers who fail to comply with the required return service on account of, or by reason of, severe or serious illness or other reasons beyond the control of the scholar as may be determined and approved by the City Scholarship Board.

**SECTION 13. SELECTION AND SCREENING OF GRANTEES** – The Ormoc City Scholarship Board shall come up with supplemental guidelines for screening and selection of grantees.

The Ormoc City Scholarship Board shall also take charge of resolving all issues and concerns pertaining to the implementation of this ordinance.

**SECTION 14. PARTNER SCHOOLS** – The Ormoc City Scholarship Board shall give preference to a school offering law degree in Ormoc City as the partner school for the law scholarship grant unless there is a valid or justifiable reason to admit other partner schools using the following criteria:

  
6  
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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

- a. Must be recognized/accredited by the Legal Education Board;
- b. Must have performance of higher than the national average for first time takers in the bar examination;
- c. Must be capable to provide facilities/infrastructure to deliver quality education that is critical to produce competent and committed workers; and
- d. Must have a designated Scholarship Coordinator or focal person for the Ormoc City Scholarship Program.

Only those tertiary institutions that will sign an agreement with the City Government of Ormoc shall become partner schools in implementing this ordinance.

**SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION** – For purposes of this program, the City Government shall include in the annual budget of the City Government of Ormoc funds necessary for the purpose of this ordinance. The unspent balance at the end of the calendar year shall be transferred to the trust fund intended for scholarship grants. For the first year of implementation, the City Government shall allocate budget for five (5) scholarship slots. In the succeeding years, budget shall be allocated to support three (3) new scholars per year.

Should the fund allocation be insufficient to accommodate all applicants in a given year, the Scholarship Board shall devise a mechanism to determine on who should be given priority.

**SECTION 16. REPEALING CLAUSE.** Any provision or ordinance, rules and regulations and/or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 17. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** Should there be provisions in this ordinance that require guidelines and further regulations, the City Scholarship Board shall recommend to the City Mayor rules, regulations or guidelines to carry out those broad or general provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 18. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** Should any portion or provisions of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and after compliance with publication and posting requirements pursuant to relevant provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991.

ENACTED, December 13, 2022.

RESOLVED, to furnish copies of this ordinance one each to the City Mayor Lucy Torres Gomez; the City Administrator; the City Legal Officer; the City Budget Officer; the City Accountant; the City Treasurer; the HRMO; Atty. Evergisto Escalon, Dean-Law School, WLC; Atty. Maria Pamela S. Oliver, President – OLBA; the City Auditor; the CSWD; the Ormoc City Scholarship Board; the City Local Government Operations Officer-DILG; and others concerned;




REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above ordinance.

  
MARIA ANTONIETANG G. CO HAT  
Secretary to the  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

  
NOLITO M. QUILANG  
SP Member  
Majority Floor Leader

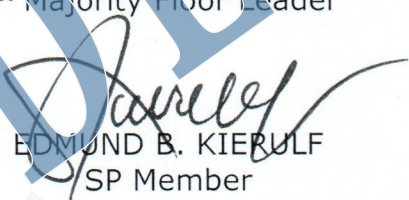
REY F. EVANGELISTA  
SP Member  
(O.B. - Taiwan)

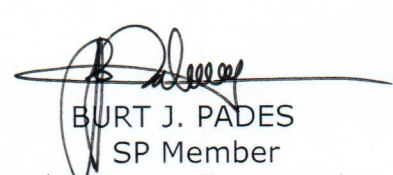
  
PETER M. RODRIGUEZ  
SP Member

  
GREGORIO G. YRASTORZA III  
SP Member

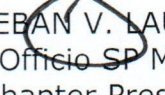
  
JASPER M. LUCERO  
SP Member  
1<sup>st</sup> Majority Floor Leader


  
MARIA CARMEN JEAN T. RAMA  
SP Member

  
EDMUND B. KIERULF  
SP Member

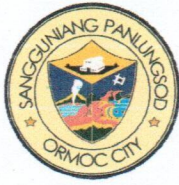
  
BURT J. PADES  
SP Member  
2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Floor Leader

  
LALAINA A. MARCOS  
SP Member

  
ESTEBAN V. LAURENTE  
Ex-Officio SP Member  
Chapter President  
Liga ng mga Barangay ng Ormoc

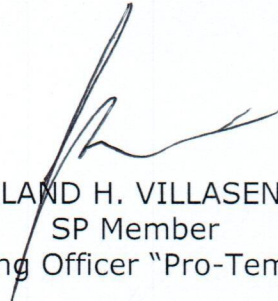
  
JOAN MARBIE C. SIMBAJON  
Ex-Officio SP Member  
Chapter President Panlungsod na Pederasyon  
ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc






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LUNGSOD NG ORMOG  
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ATTESTED:

  
ROILAND H. VILLASENCO  
SP Member  
Presiding Officer "Pro-Tempore"

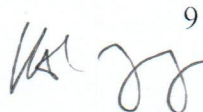
APPROVED:

  
LUCY TORRES GOMEZ  
City Mayor

JAN 10 2023

(Date)


  
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