

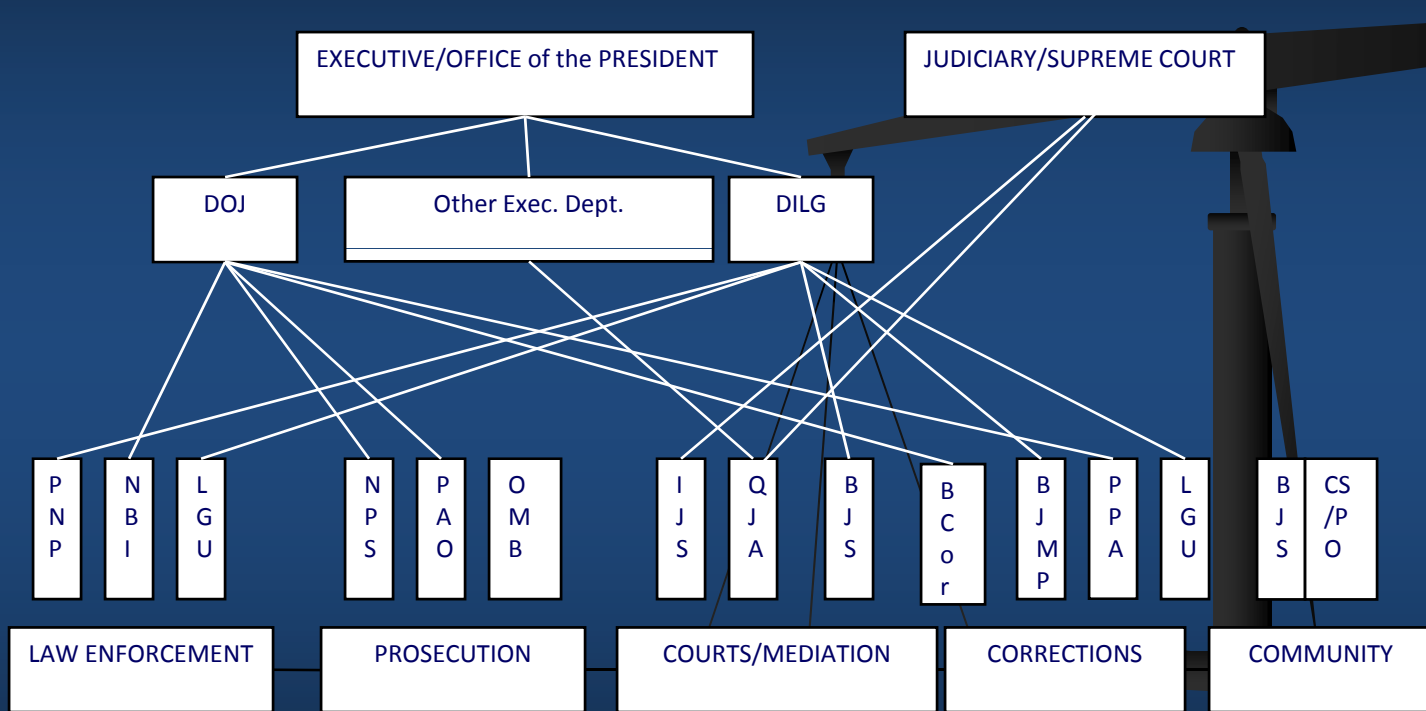


**MOVING FORWARD, MOVING
FAST, ON SOLID GROUND:**
An Effective and Sustainable Judicial
Reform Agenda

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Chief Justice

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BACKGROUND: The Judiciary forms the core of the Philippine Justice System supported by a **network of interlocking institutions** involved in the administration of Justice.



BJS= Barangay Justice System; BJMP=Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; PPA=Parole and Pardon Administration; DOJ=Department of Justice; BCor=Bureau of Corrections; OP=Office of the President; DILG=Department of the Interior and Local Government; IJS=Integrated Judicial System; LGU=Local Government Units; PNP=Philippine National Police; NBI=National Bureau of Investigation; NPS=National Prosecution Service; OMB=Office of the Ombudsman; PAO=Public Attorney's Office; QJA=quasi-judicial agencies; CS/PO=Civil society groups and People's Organization

SOURCE: ADB JUSTICE SECTOR ASSESSMENT (2011), as modified by Chief Justice Sereno.

Two Decades of Reforms in the Judiciary



Six phases in a continuous process of reform since 1986:

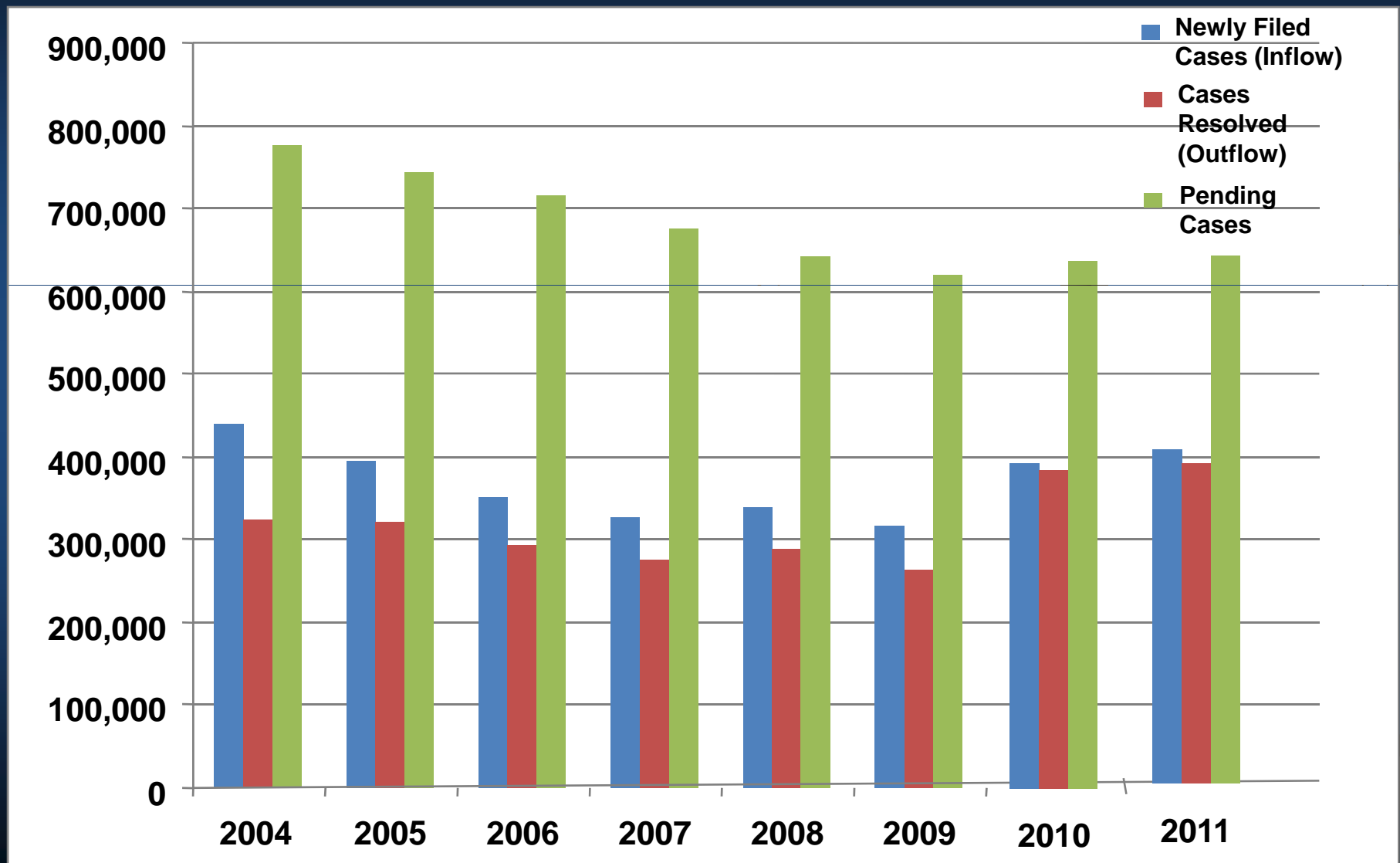
1. Following the Feb 1986 revolution: Created the sound constitutional basis for an effective justice system.
2. 1990s reform: Strengthening human and institutional capabilities to respond to increased workload.
3. Preliminary Phase to the Major Reform Programs: Blueprint for Judicial Reform (1999)
4. The Davide Watch: Creating the Action Program for Judicial Reform 2001-2006 (APJR)
5. Panganiban Court (2005-2006): Liberty and Prosperity
6. Puno Court (2006-2010): Writs of Amparo, Habeas Data and Kalikasan

Despite reforms, major short-comings persist

- Case Congestion and Delay

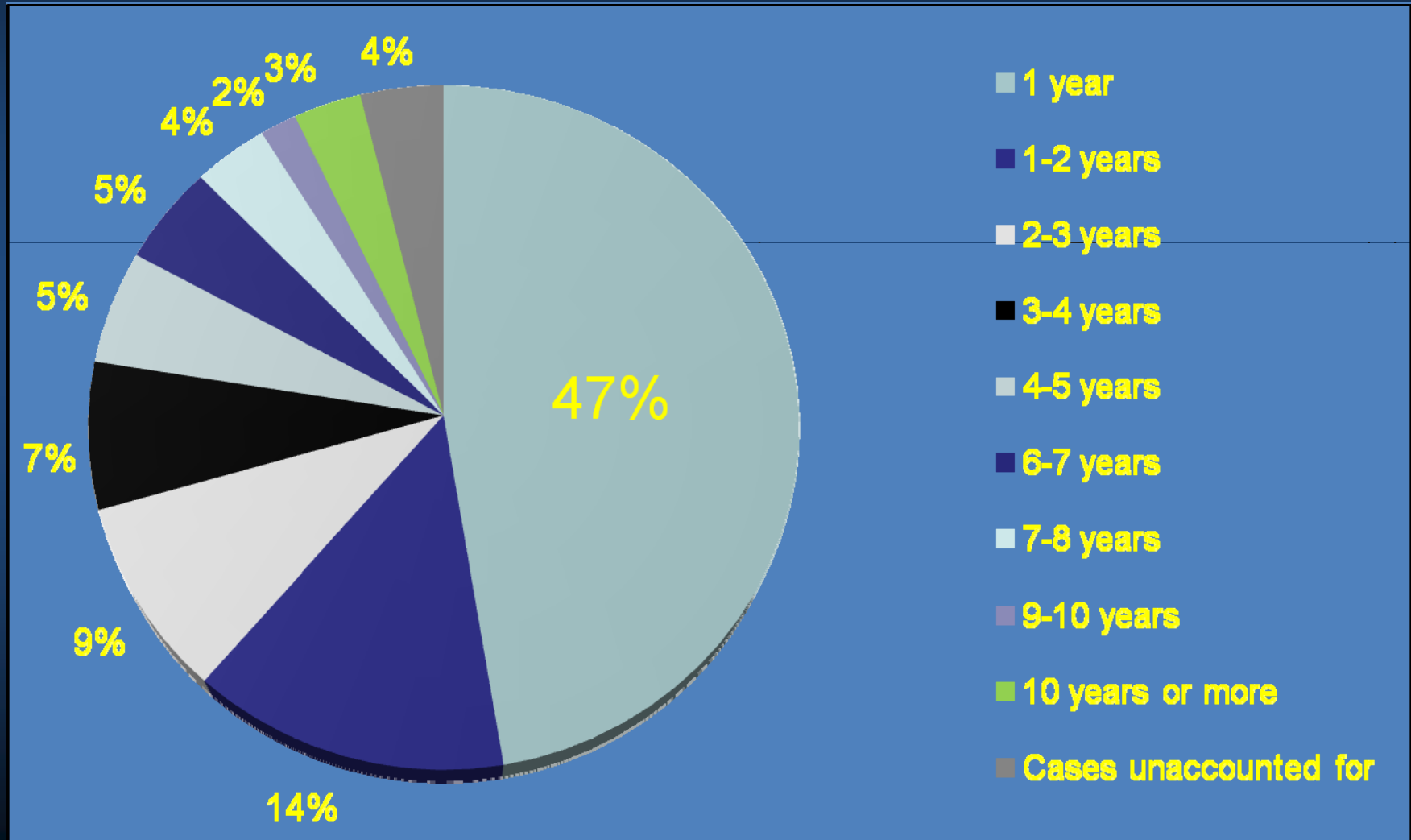


Case Flow (For All Lower Courts)



Aging of Cases From Time of Filing Summary for All Lower Courts

Source: Statistical Reports Division, CMO, OCA, 2010

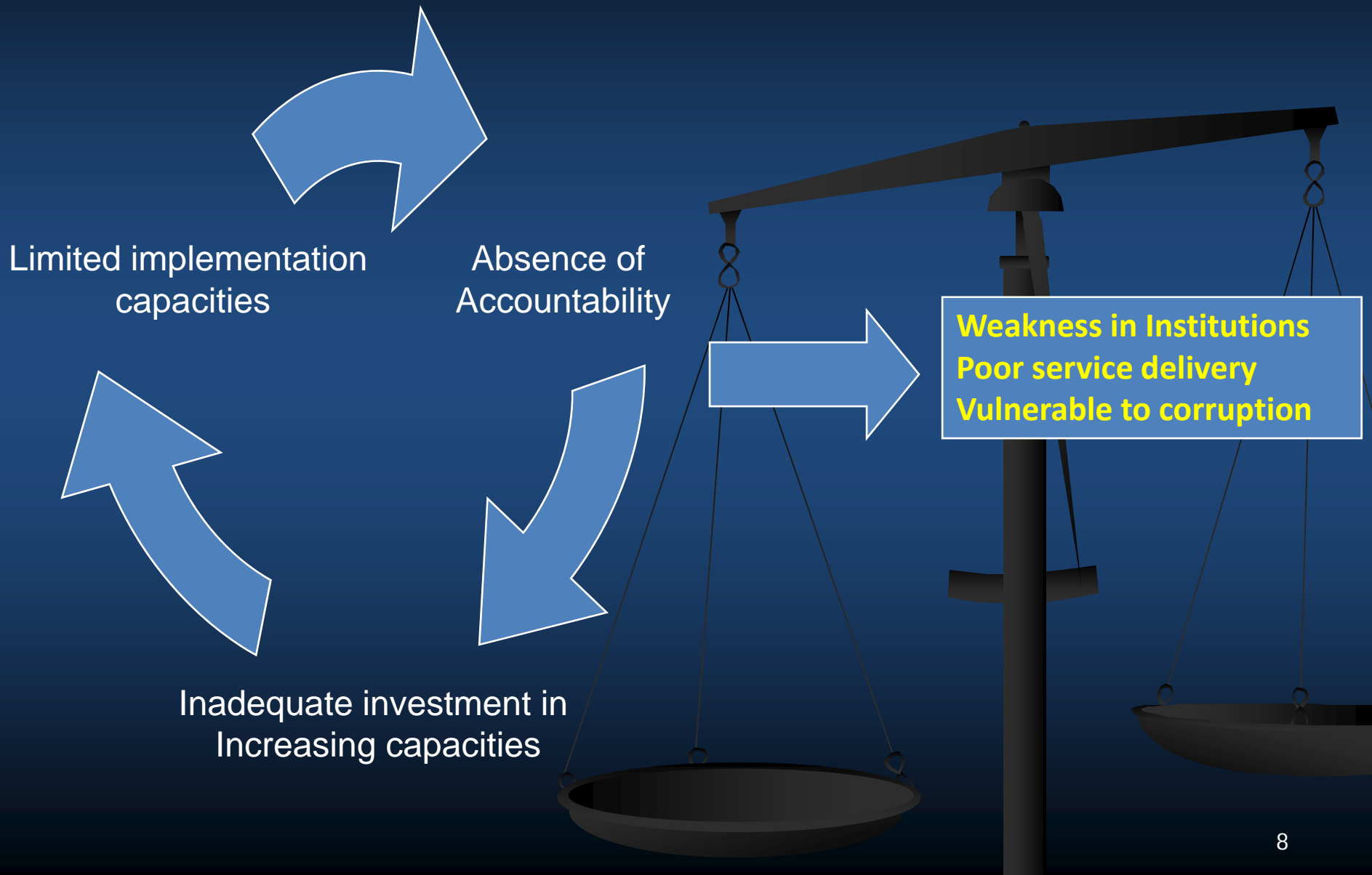


Despite reforms, major short-comings persist

- Integrity issues
- Inefficiencies in operations
- Competency issues
- Issues on public trust and confidence



Why the problem persists? Vicious circle of poor governance



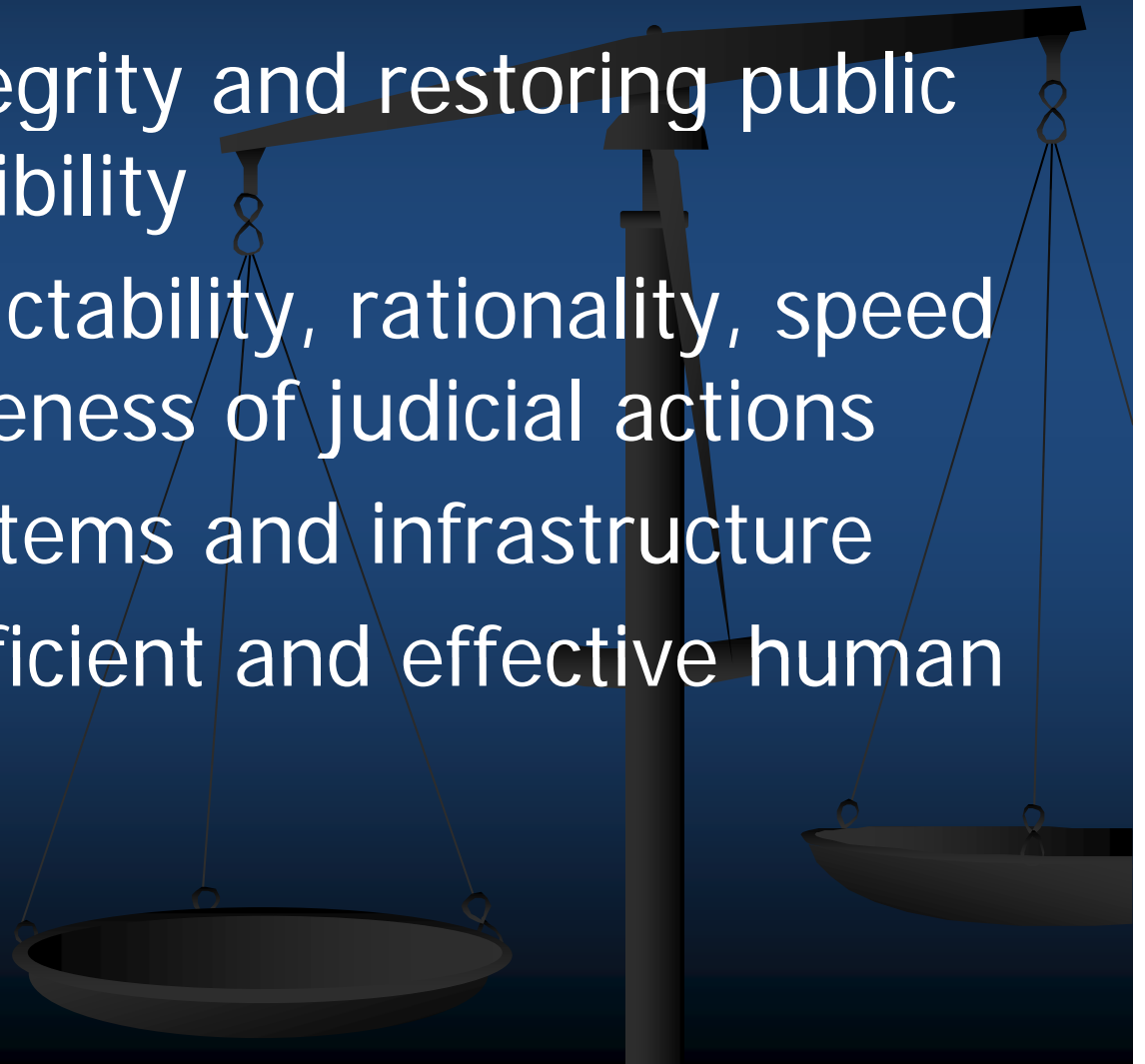
VISION AND GOALS

Professionalized judiciary,
decentralized operations,
decongested courts and
reduced delays



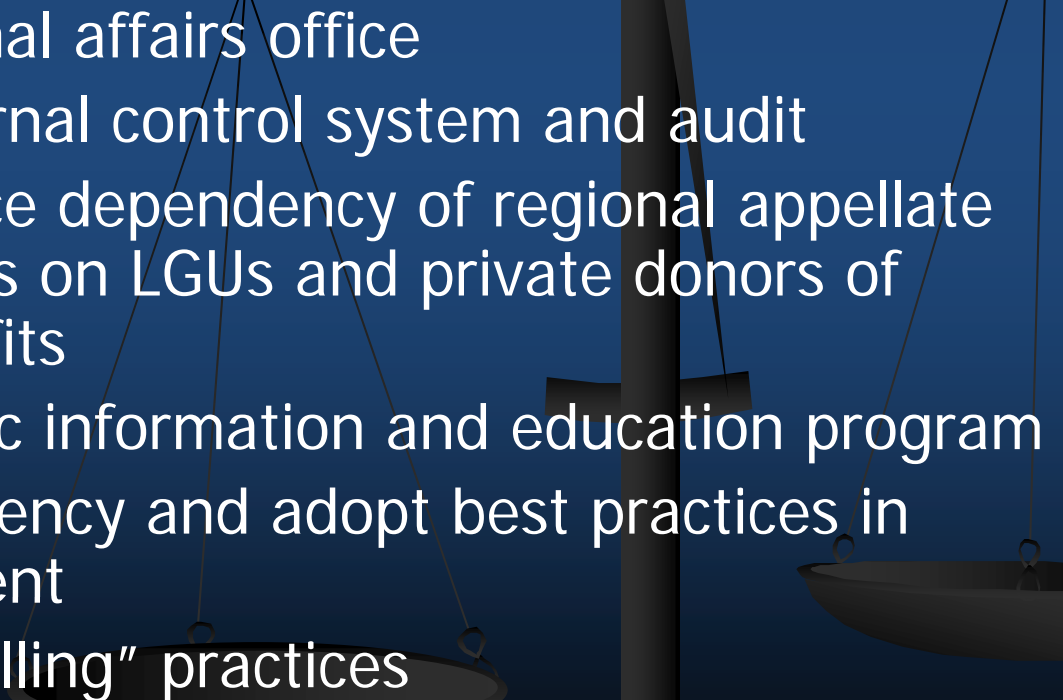
4 PILLARS OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM AGENDA

- A. Instituting integrity and restoring public trust and credibility
- B. Ensuring predictability, rationality, speed and responsiveness of judicial actions
- C. Improving systems and infrastructure
- D. Developing efficient and effective human resources



4 PILLARS OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM AGENDA

A. Instituting integrity and restoring public trust and credibility

- Create an internal affairs office
 - Strengthen internal control system and audit
 - Remove resource dependency of regional appellate and lower courts on LGUs and private donors of personnel benefits
 - Institute a public information and education program
 - Ensure transparency and adopt best practices in fund management
 - Establish “modelling” practices
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4 PILLARS OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM AGENDA

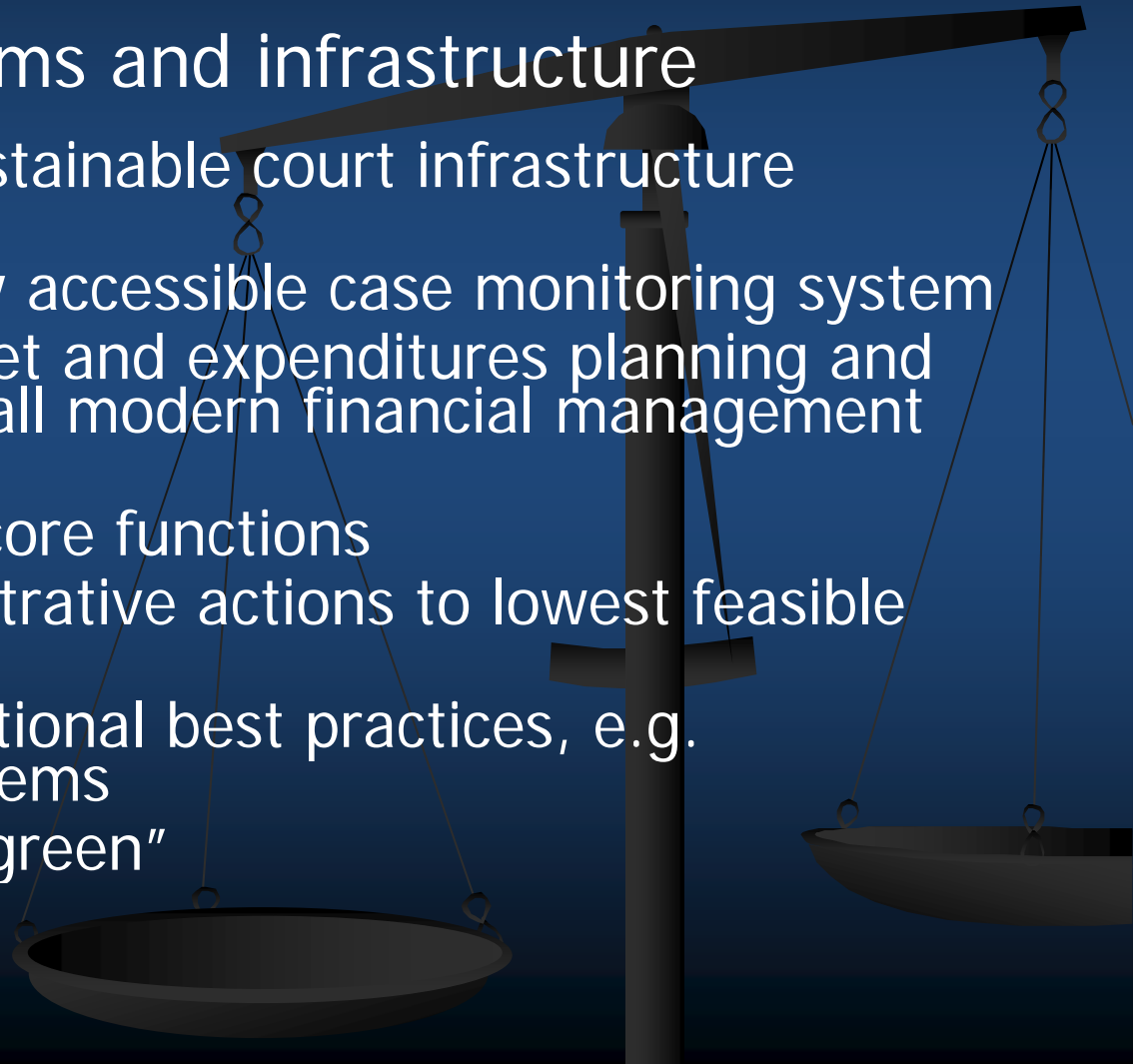
B. Ensuring predictability, rationality, speed and responsiveness of judicial actions

- Establish database of decisions that enable detection of conflicting court decisions
- Establish templates of court actions by lower court judges
- Support judiciary referred mediation of private business and contract disputes
- Strengthen and professionalize a corps of judiciary accredited mediators
- Institute "sensitivity" test or prioritization mechanisms to determine cases that need immediate action by the Court

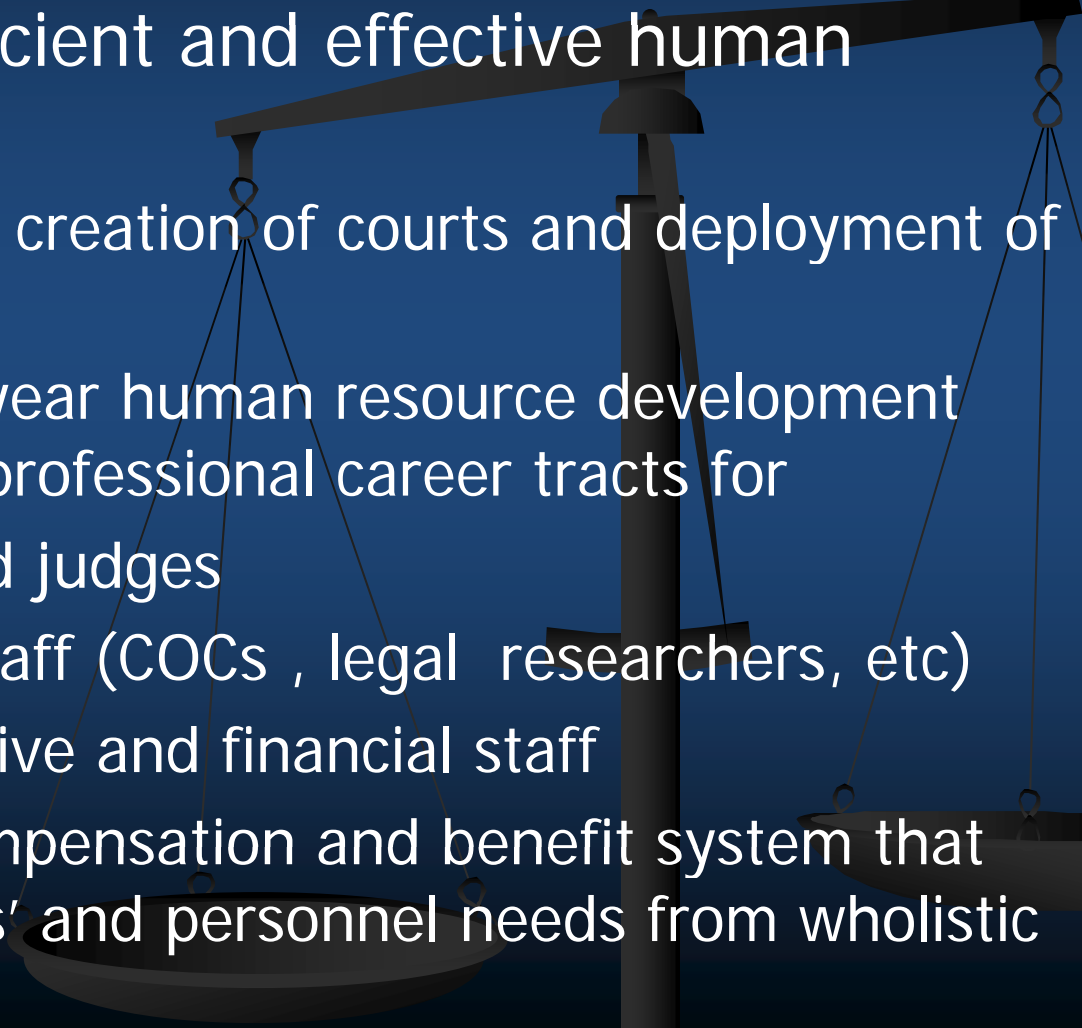
4 PILLARS OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM AGENDA

C. Improving systems and infrastructure

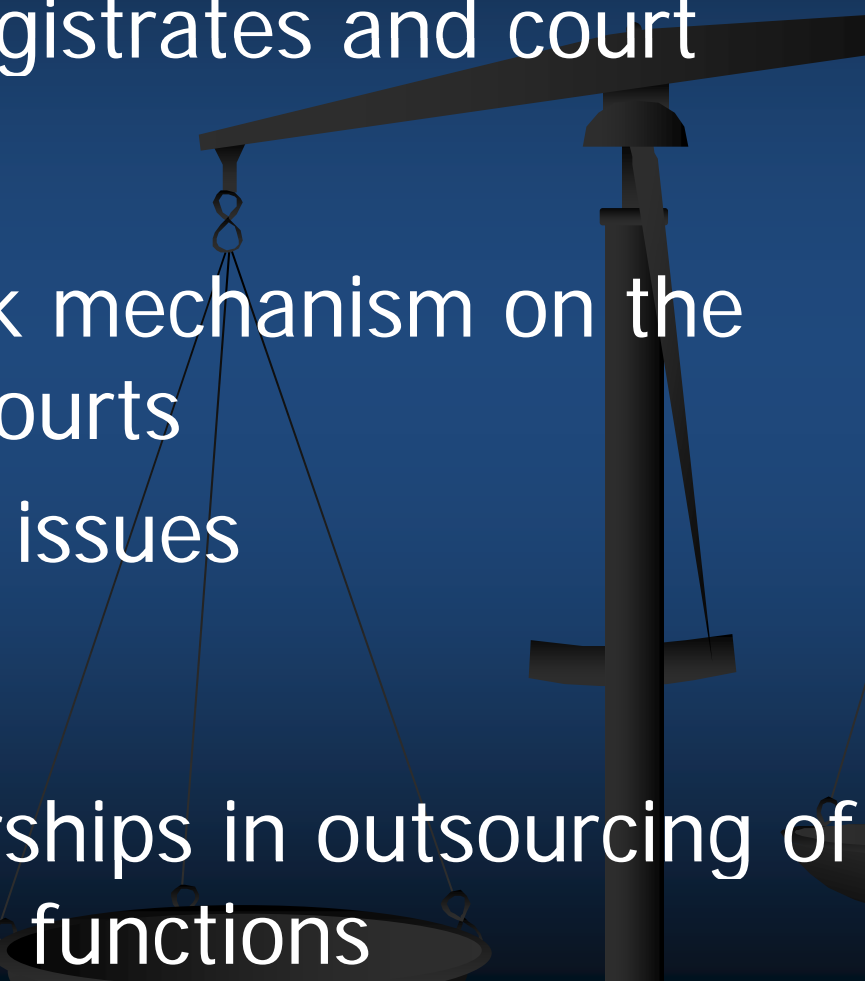
- Implement a sustainable court infrastructure program
- Create a publicly accessible case monitoring system
- Modernize budget and expenditures planning and monitoring; install modern financial management systems
- Outsource non-core functions
- Devolve administrative actions to lowest feasible responsible level
- Institute international best practices, e.g. certification systems
- Go "E" and go "green"



4 PILLARS OF THE JUDICIAL REFORM AGENDA

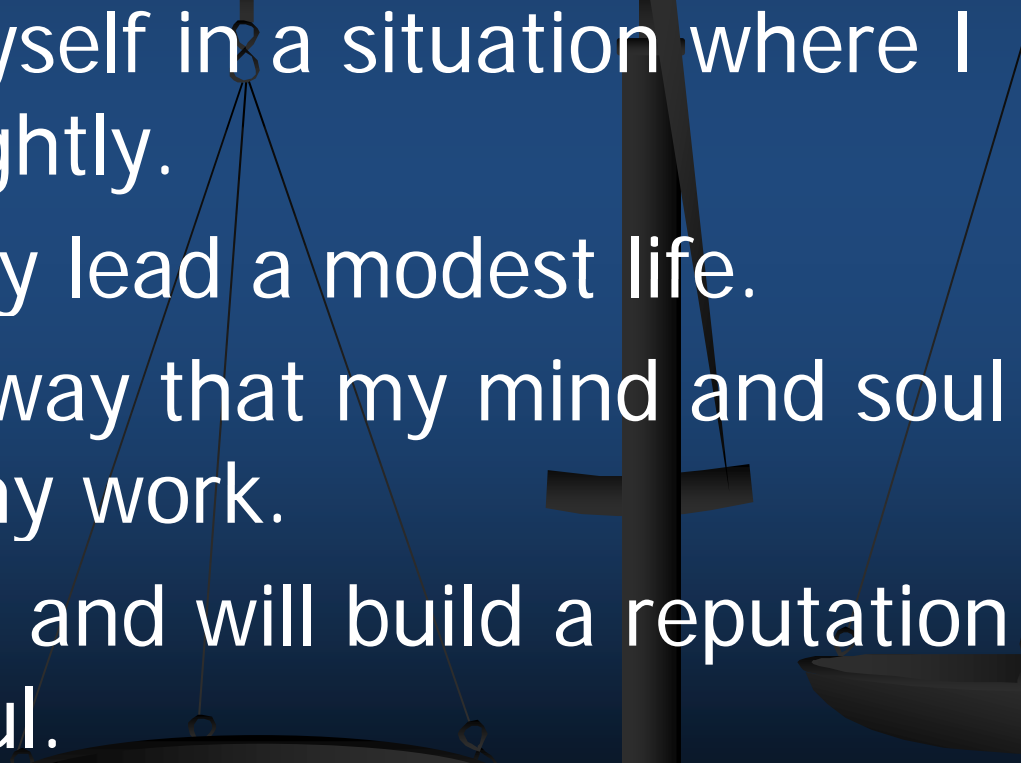
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- D.** Developing efficient and effective human resources
- Rationalize the creation of courts and deployment of judges
 - Create an 18–year human resource development program with professional career tracts for
 - justices and judges
 - technical staff (COCs , legal researchers, etc)
 - administrative and financial staff
 - Rationalize compensation and benefit system that looks at judges' and personnel needs from wholistic view point

HOW THE BUSINESS SECTOR CAN HELP

- Do not bribe magistrates and court employees!
 - Provide feedback mechanism on the conduct of the courts
 - on integrity issues
 - on delays
 - Effective Partnerships in outsourcing of non-core judicial functions
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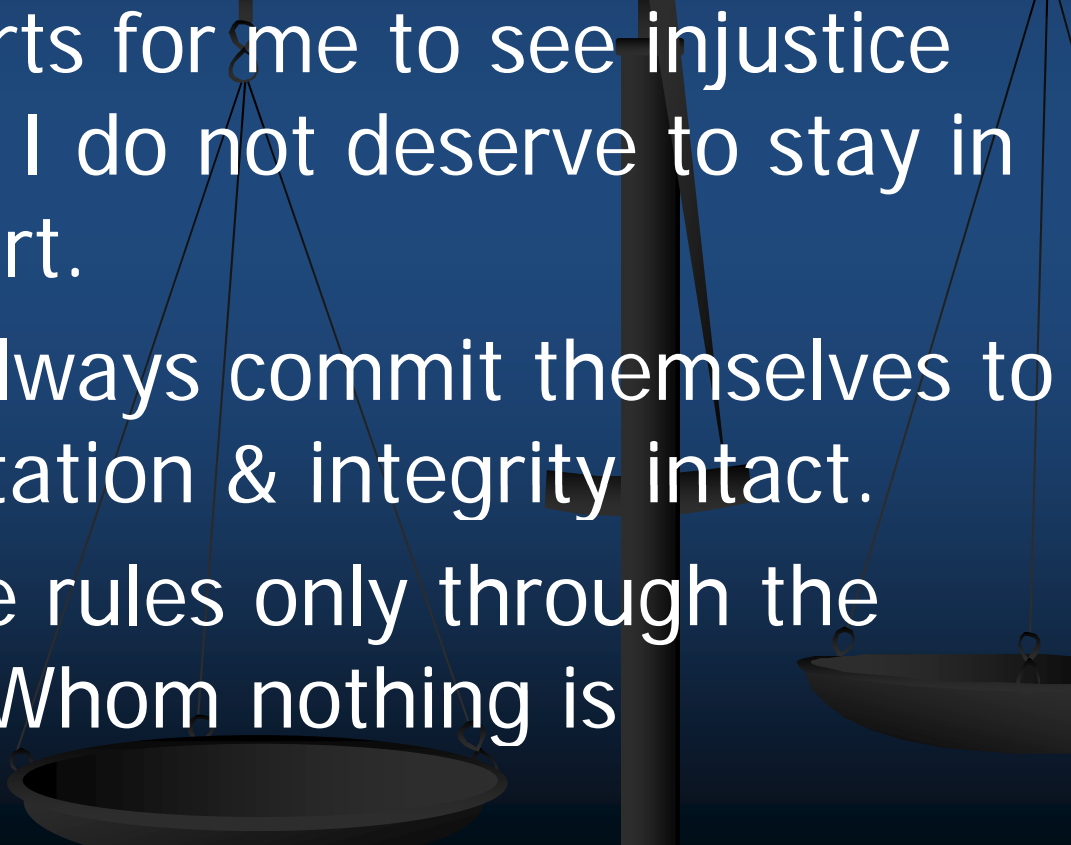
Chief Justice Sereno's Personal Integrity Pledge

(Adopted since 2010 appointment as Associate Justice)

- I will not put myself in a situation where I cannot judge rightly.
 - I will deliberately lead a modest life.
 - I will work in a way that my mind and soul are evident in my work.
 - I will be truthful and will build a reputation for being truthful.
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Chief Justice Sereno's Personal Integrity Pledge

(Adopted since 2010 appointment as Associate Justice)

- If it no longer hurts for me to see injustice being done, then I do not deserve to stay in the Supreme Court.
 - My family must always commit themselves to keeping my reputation & integrity intact.
 - I can follow these rules only through the grace of God, in Whom nothing is impossible.
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Thank You

