

**Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism**

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20 May 2010

THE HONORABLE TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO

Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines
Padre Faura, Manila

Dear Justice De Castro,

Greetings from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism!

We hope this letter finds you in the best of health and cheer.

For several years now, the Supreme Court has refused requests by the PCIJ and other media agencies for the public disclosure of the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth of judges, justices and other members of the bench.

In our earnest effort to do investigative reports that promote the best values of public accountability, transparency, and good governance, we launched a research on the business interests and financial connections of the justices of the high court.

Our review of public and other databases has yielded findings that may present or suggest possible situations of real, apparent and potential conflicts of interest that may involve your good self. Please understand that pending the disclosure of the SALNs of the members of the high court and the bench, the existence and relevance of these data in public records remain an unsettled matter.

It is in our effort to uphold fairness and the highest standards of good journalism that we now ask you to respond to the following queries as soon as practicable or in two weeks' time.

Our reverse search of your name in the database of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reveals the names of two corporate entities in which you are still listed, as of May 2010, as an incorporator or board officer or stockholder.

Please clarify whether or not you retain any measure of business interest or financial connections in the following business entities:

MAKER INDUSTRIES CORP.

QZ TRADE STANDARDS CORP.

We tried to validate these data with the latest available general information sheets and financial statements of the SEC. However, we learned that the SEC has no further records for these two companies that would help establish whether or not you retain any business or financial interests in the same.

We trust that in the spirit and letter of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials you will find our request reasonable, legitimate and worthy of your prompt attention.

You may please ask your deputy to contact me at the following numbers: Tel. 410-4763 to 64, fax 410-4768, and email mcmangahas@pcij.org or pcij@pcij.org.

Thank you very much and best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Malou Mangahas
Executive Director, PCIJ