

RALPH VINCENT CATEDRAL

PROFILE

Prosecutor from International Justice Mission in the Philippines who has represented in court survivors of human trafficking, child abuse, and online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), and with interest in the use of technology, data, and innovation to drive prosecution strategies for OSEC cases.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prosecution Development Specialist on Thought Leadership and Advocacy (Present), International Justice Mission (IJM), National Office, Philippines

- Leads the research and publication efforts of the National Prosecution Development department of IJM Philippines.
- Designs and delivers tools to measure sustainability of prosecution strategies and advocacies.
- Facilitates the release of the National Prosecution Development department's data analysis.

Prosecution Manager (April 2018-July 2019), International Justice Mission, Manila Field Office, Philippines

- Created and implemented a framework to support law enforcement rescue operations and prosecutions of cybersex trafficking cases outside of Metro Manila and in Mindanao.
- Identified and compiled best practices for prosecuting cybersex trafficking cases, and developed strategic trainings and seminars to judges, public prosecutors, law enforcers, social workers, and NGO partners.
- Represented survivors of cybersex trafficking in court as a non-government/private prosecutor. In this capacity, I prosecuted the first cybersex trafficking case of IJM under the Philippines' Anti-Cybercrime Act that resulted in a conviction.

Special Counsel for Intervention (August 2011-April 2018), International Justice Mission, Manila Field Office, Philippines

- Represented survivors of human trafficking, including cybersex trafficking of children, and sexual abuse in court; collaborated with government prosecutors to prepare and present witnesses in court, and drafted the necessary documents, pleadings, and motions.
- Assisted law enforcement authorities in operations to rescue victims from situations of abuse; and provided them with legal advice in preparation for and during the actual conduct of these operations.

Supervising Lawyer, (2014 to 2018), in partnership with the Ateneo Legal Service Center (ALSC), the Ateneo Law School, Philippines

- Formulated the theory and strategy of the case, together with the student members of the team, reviewed pleadings, opinions, and other legal work of the students, and signed, for and in behalf of ALSC, all pleadings and other document or papers which had to be filed in court.
- Mentored and supervised the work of the student members, and monitored the progress of the case.

Consultant (July 15, 2016 to October 15, 2016), The Asia Foundation, Philippines

- Explored the possibility of amending the Anti-Wiretapping Law to include Online Sexual Exploitation (OSEC) crimes in the list of exceptions where law enforcers can ask for court authority to wiretap or record private communication.
- Held focused group discussions, interview of experts, field research, and drafted a research paper on amending the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

RECOGNITION

June 2014, Recognized by Compassion International (Philippines) for being a strong advocate in upholding children's rights and for contributing to the restoration of Children in Need of Special Protection.

EDUCATION

University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines
Juris Doctor, April 2010

University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines
Bachelor of Arts in English Studies: Language, April 2006
Magna cum laude

AFFILIATIONS

International Association of Prosecutors, Member

Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Member

Asian Society of International Law, Member

TRAININGS CONDUCTED

June 2019, "Digital Expert Testimony and Parrying Defense Strategies," co-delivered with a US Department DOJ Attorney and a Computer Forensic Expert, Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, Davao City, Philippines.

May 2019, "Coordination between Civil Society Organizations and Law Enforcement in the Philippines" and "Coordination and Referral System in the Philippines", as a Philippine Expert at the Regional Workshop on Cooperation between Service Providers and the Law Criminal Justice Sector in the Areas of Protection and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking, Vientiane, Laos.

May 2019, "Child Protection in the Digital Age," Ateneo de Manila University, Manila, Philippines.

March and April 2018; June and October 2017; July 2016, "Detection, Surveillance, Monitoring, and Investigation of the Crimes against Millennials" and "The Expert's Testimony: Challenges and Gaps", at the Competency Enhancement Training for Family Court Judges, Prosecutors, Social Workers, and Law Enforcement Investigators on the Management of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Cases by the Philippine Judicial Academy of the Supreme Court in Partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Australian Embassy in the Philippines, and The Asia Foundation, Pampanga City, Davao City, Ilo-ilo City, Naga City, and Cebu City, Philippines

November and March 2017, “Legal Foundation on Internet Crimes Against Children”, organized by the Philippine National Police in partnership with International Justice Mission, Camp Crame, Quezon City and Camp Osmena, Cebu City, Philippines

September 2017, “International and Local Legal Framework on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children”, at the Strengthening Collaboration among Government Agencies, ICT Industry, and NGO’s for the Protection of Children Against Online Sexual Exploitation by the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, Davao City, Philippines

March 2017, “Laws on Online Sexual Exploitation on Children”, World Vision, Quezon City, Philippines

February 2017, “The Anti-Child Pornography Act”, at the Internet Crimes Against Children Training by the Philippine National Police in partnership with International Justice Mission, Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines

August 2016, “Child Pornography and Child Trafficking”, at the General Assembly of the Area Based Standard Network (ABSNET) in partnership with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office of the Rizal Provincial Government, Antipolo City, Philippines

July 2016, “Salient Provisions of Relevant Laws on Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation”, at the Multi-stakeholders’ Training of Community Educators on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Online CSAE sponsored by Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), Antipolo City, Philippines

August 2015, “Human Trafficking and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child”, at The Game Changers’ A Youth Training Against Human Trafficking organized by The Commission on Filipino Overseas and World Youth Alliance-Asia Pacific, Tagaytay, Philippines.

July 2015, “The Interface Between Human Trafficking and Online Sexual Exploitation of Children”, delivered before State, Regional, and Local Prosecutors of the Department of Justice, at the Department of Justice and International Justice Mission Joint Conference, Manila, Philippines

March 2014, “Anti-Human Trafficking and Anti-Child Sexual Exploitation Laws”, organized by International Justice Mission Manila Field Office, Pasig City, Philippines.

February 2014, “Orientation Seminar on Human Trafficking”, organized by Rizal Pastors Ministerial Associations, Rizal, Philippines.

December 2013, “The Human Trafficking Situation in the Philippines and the Role of Civil Society Organizations”, at the End Trafficking Awareness Campaign organized by the De la Salle

University Paralegal Volunteers Association and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, Manila, Philippines.

August 2013, "Responding to Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse", organized by the U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines.

November 2012, "The Role of Family, Church, and Society in Addressing the Issue of Human Trafficking", organized by The Holy Spirit Sisters, Quezon City, Philippines.

November 2011, "Training on Child Protection Laws", organized by Alay Pag-Asa, Mandaluyong, Philippines.

TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

March 2018, "Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: Proving OSEC Cases Using Digital Evidence", initiated by International Justice Mission in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Cebu City, Philippines.

November 2017, 2nd Focused Group Discussion with the Judiciary on Trafficking in Persons Cases, Cebu, Philippines

June 2017, Asia Pacific Financial Coalition: Philippines Working Group Meeting initiated by the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Makati City, Philippines

April 2017, Validation Workshop on the draft Revised IACAT Handbook on the Money Laundering Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons, organized by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking supported by Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Australian Aid, Manila City, Philippines

February 2017, Asia Pacific Financial Coalition: Philippines Working Group Meeting initiated by the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Makati City, Philippines

December 2014, "The Hague Training Course for Human Rights Defenders on Safety and Security", organized by Justice and Peace Netherlands and The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague, The Netherlands.

March 2014, "Standards for the Protection of Children Against Trafficking", organized by Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), Pasig City, Philippines.

November 2013, "Validation Workshop on the Helpbook on Combatting Human Trafficking in the Philippines," organized by the Philippine Supreme Court's Judicial Academy and The U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division, Manila, Philippines.

August 2013, "The Asean Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Regional Workshop on Human Rights-Based Approach to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Especially Women and Children” organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Makati City, Philippines.

INTERVIEWS

Tupas, Emmanuel. “Iligan court convicts 2 for child cyberporn.” August 2018. The Philippine Star. Web. 28 August 2018. <<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2018/08/09/1840839/iligan-court-convicts-2-child-cyberporn>>

Enano, Jhesset. “Life in prison for ‘demon’ who kept kids as sex slaves.” May 2017. The Philippine Daily Inquirer. Web. 28 August 2018. Web. <<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/900017/life-in-prison-for-demon-who-kept-kids-as-sex-slaves>>

Lacanilao, Pauline. “7 Ways We Promote Rape Without Realizing It.” November 2015. Web. 28 August 2018 <<http://preen.inquirer.net/17280/7-ways-we-promote-rape-without-realizing-it>>

“Court Delivers Speedy Justice, Defending Five Children Who are Now Free.” August 2018. Web. 28 August 2018. <<https://ijm.org.au/court-delivers-speedy-justice-defending-five-children-who-are-now-free/>>

“Landmark Conviction Cracks Down on Cybersex Trafficking, Frees Survivors from Fear.” August 2017. Web. 28 August 2018. <<https://ijm.org.au/landmark-conviction-cracks-cybersex-trafficking/>>

RESEARCH

Co-author, July 2019, “Creating Child Friendly Spaces for Video In-Depth Interviews: A Research Project in Support of Child-Protective Court Admissible Interviews” presented at the World Day Against Trafficking Commemoration, Pasay City, Philippines.

Co-author and Presenter, April 2018, “Analysis of the Ways Filipino Bilingual Children Initiate Conversations with Different Interlocutors,” presented at Unity and Diversity: Perspective in Language Studies Research, the 1st Colloquium on Language Studies hosted by the University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters, Quezon City, Philippines

Author, October 2016, “(Un)blurring the Lines: Building a Case for the Inclusion of OSEC in the Philippines’ Anti-Wiretapping Act.”