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## **JUDGE MANUEL L. ARGEL, JR. (Ret)**

COMMISSIONER  
Social Security System (SSS)  
(02) 8927-2357



### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTION**

As a member of the Social Security Commission (SSC), which serves as the Governing Board of the Social Security System (SSS), (Ret.) Judge Manuel L. Argel, Jr. shares the responsibility for the governance of the SSS, in terms of providing policy directions, monitoring and overseeing management actions and with powers and duties specified by Sec. 4 of Republic Act No. 8282 (Social Security Act of 1997). He also performs quasi-judicial functions through the decisions rendered in the evaluation of cases involving disputes on SS coverage, benefits, contributions and penalties which fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the SSC.

### **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Armed with a solid private law practice of twenty (20) years, Judge Argel was appointed in 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos as Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge for Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. Judge Argel served as a member of the Judiciary for twenty (20) years until his retirement in 2015, for a total of forty years (40) of legal practice at the time of his retirement. His record of public service as a Judge has been marked by a very high degree of competence, integrity, dedication, and independence.

Prior to his service in the judiciary, Judge Argel also served the Legislative Department when he was elected in 1980 as a member of the Sangguniang Bayan of his hometown, Vigan City. As councilor for seven (7) years of the then municipality of Ilocos Sur, Judge Argel was responsible in formulating local ordinances and resolutions for the administration of the municipality. In 2008, Judge Argel was given the Legislator's Award by the City Government of Vigan in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions as former legislator of Vigan City.

### **PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE / HIGHLIGHTS**

A member of the Philippine Bar since 1975, Judge Argel started his career in law as an associate of private full-service law firms until he eventually formed his own law office in 1981 where he handled cases in the fields of civil, criminal, labor, corporate, patents, land registration, administrative and election cases, as well as documentation and establishment of rural banks, cooperatives and labor unions.

While in private practice, Judge Argel was accredited in 1995 as a Voluntary Labor Arbitrator of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board, the arbitration arm of the Department of Labor and Employment. During his twenty (20) years in the private practice, Judge Argel also served as President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (Ilocos Sur Chapter) from 1993 to 1995, Provincial Secretary of National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, Chairman of the Ilocos Sur Local Amnesty Board and a member of the People's Assistance Development Action Center, Inc.

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Upon his appointment in 1995 as RTC Judge of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Judge Argel also served as Executive Judge of RTC Laoag from 2005 to 2007 and Presidential Assistant for Region I in the Philippine Judges Association.

Judge Argel is a founding member of the Lambda Rho Beta Fraternity, a law-school based fraternity formed in 1972.

At one point or another, he was also a Charter Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus St. Paul de Vigan Council 8642, Justice and Peace Council of Ilocos Sur, Council of the Laity of the Philippines, and other civic and community organizations.

## **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Judge Argel is a distinguished alumnus of San Beda University, where he obtained both his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1969 and his Bachelor of Laws in 1974.

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