

# JUDGE MANUEL L. ARGEL, JR. (RET.)

## COMMISSIONER

Social Security System (SSS)

+63(2) 8927-2357



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTION

As a member of the Social Security Commission (SSC), Judge Manuel L. Argel, Jr. (Ret.) plays a crucial role in overseeing the governance of the Social Security System (SSS). He is responsible for fiduciary duty providing policy direction and monitoring management actions. He also holds the authority to make decisions in disputes related to SSS coverage, benefits, contributions, and penalties.

Apart from his role at the SSC, Judge Argel served as a Director of PLDT Inc. from 2020 until 2023. Further, he has been serving as a Director of Philamlife Tower Management Corporation (PTMC) and an active member of the SSS Risk Management and Investment Committee (RMIC) along with Audit Committee since 2019. In January 2024, he joined as a member of the Information Technology and Collection Committee (ITCC) and was appointed as a new Director of the Philex Mining Corporation on January 16, 2024.

## CAREER MILESTONES

Judge Argel commands a substantial twenty (20) years of experience in private law practice. Prior to his role as a member of the Judiciary, he had seven (7) years of experience as a member of the Sangguniang Bayan of Vigan City, where he was responsible for crafting local ordinances and resolutions to govern the municipality. His works as a legislator were recognized in 2008 when he received the Legislator's Award from the City Government of Vigan.

In 1995 he was appointed by former President Fidel V. Ramos to serve as a Regional Trial Court Judge in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. Throughout his twenty (20) years of tenure in the judiciary, Judge Argel earned a reputation for his exceptional competence, integrity, dedication, and impartiality.

Upon retiring in 2015, he had accumulated a total of forty (40) years of legal experience. With over four (4) decades of legal practice, Judge Argel's career has been marked by competence, integrity, dedication, and independence.

On September 04, 2019, Judge Argel was appointed by former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as Acting Member of the Social Security Commission, representing Employer's Sector. On November 11, 2022, he was reappointed by the incumbent President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

## 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 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 the 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.

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 as 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.

He continuously strives to enhance his knowledge and skills through participation in various trainings and seminars, such as the Institute of Corporate Directors' Corporate Governance Orientation Program for GOCCs and Professional Directors Program, the ACGES seminars on "Lessons from a Pandemic" and "How to Courageously Lead During a Crisis," a seminar on Islamic Finance, and PLDT ACGES events on topics ranging from customer obsession to the metaverse and its impact on business and human interaction. He also ensures that he is up to date on corporate policies aligning with the latest Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.