

CS 3206 – SOCIAL ISSUES AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES
2nd Semester, A.Y. 2024 – 2025
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EXERCISE 3 (30 points)

Instructions: This exercise contains three (3) questions, each worth 10 points, and must be completed within 20 minutes. No extensions will be granted. Write the names of your group members and today's date in the blue notebook separately provided. Carefully read each question and provide clear and concise answers. Do not assume facts not provided in the questions. Your answers should reflect your ability to analyze the given facts, identify the pertinent issues, determine the applicable law, and arrive at a sound and logical conclusion. A mere "Yes" or "No" answer without explanation will not receive any credit. For each question, present your conclusion, the legal basis, and a detailed explanation of how the legal basis applies to the facts provided. Note that this is an essay-type exercise. Hence, your answers should be written in paragraph form. Good luck.

1. Konoha Inc., a well-regarded research firm known for conducting nationwide surveys on social and political issues, recently carried out a public perception study measuring trust and confidence in various branches of government. The survey results indicated that the judiciary received the lowest public trust rating compared to the executive and legislative branches. These findings were widely reported by major media outlets, igniting discussions on the judiciary's credibility. Upon reading the news, Judge Sasuke, a presiding judge of a Regional Trial Court, took offense at the survey's implications. Perceiving it as a challenge to the judiciary's dignity and a threat to public confidence in the courts, he issued a show-cause order *motu proprio* against Konoha Inc. The order directed the company to explain why it should not be held in indirect contempt for conducting and publishing a survey that allegedly undermines judicial authority, an act the judge contends falls outside the scope of constitutionally protected freedom of speech. Konoha Inc. contested the order, arguing that it constitutes an unlawful restriction on the constitutional right to freedom of expression. Decide on the validity of the show-cause order.
2. Gran Romantico, a distinguished and tenured professor at a prestigious state university in Cebu City, has filed an administrative complaint against his colleague, Professor Princess Cheezy. He alleges that she is engaged in an illicit relationship with Papi Ean, a man legally married to another woman, and with whom she shares a son. Accusing her of "disgraceful and immoral conduct," Gran Romantico argues that Princess Cheezy's cohabitation with Papi Ean, which began even before her previous marriage was declared void, violates the ethical standards expected of government employees and warrants disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from service. Princess Cheezy, however, strongly refutes the allegations of immorality, asserting that her relationship with Papi Ean aligns with their religious beliefs. She explains that they are devoted members of a religious sect that allows individuals abandoned by their legal spouses to enter into new marital-like unions, provided they execute a solemn pledge known as a "*Sworn Declaration of Loyalty and Faithfulness*," which, according to their doctrine, serves as a moral and spiritual justification for their relationship. Relying on Section 5, Article III of the 1987 Constitution, which guarantees the free exercise of religion, Princess Cheezy contends that imposing administrative sanctions on her for adhering to her religious beliefs would amount to unconstitutional government interference in religious practices. Gran Romantico, on the other hand, maintains that religious freedom does not grant a license to commit acts deemed immoral or unlawful. Can Princess Cheezy successfully invoke her constitutional right to religious freedom as a defense against administrative liability?
3. In the bustling streets of Karasuno City, an increasing number of tabloids, magazines, and other printed materials which appear to be sexually explicit have been openly sold to the public, including issues of the widely circulated *Choke Me Dzaddy* Magazine, published by Lean, drawing concern from local officials and community leaders. Determined to combat the perceived moral decay caused by these publications, City Mayor Ray-Ray issued an executive order creating "Task Force Dzaddy," a special unit tasked with confiscating articles or materials believed to be obscene and lascivious from vendors and distribution centers. Task Force Dzaddy conducted multiple operations, seizing thousands of copies of ostensibly obscene magazines and tabloids. To send a strong message against indecency, Mayor Ray-Ray subsequently ordered that the confiscated materials be immediately disposed, branding them as "threats to public morality and decency." In response, Lean filed a lawsuit, contending that the seizure and destruction of the materials amount to censorship, infringing upon the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression. Will Lean's lawsuit prosper?

- Nothing follows -