



Candor banner — because even a formal cancellation can smile. Full letter and your one-click ballot below.

Reference: FLPSS-BRIDGE-OTA-2026-021-CX

Supersedes: FLPSS-BRIDGE-OTA-2026-021 (9 August 2026) · With Ballot: FLPSS-BALLOT-2026-022
18 August 2026 · Marikina City, Philippines

TO: All ESMEL Fellows and Legal Scholars
FROM: Milagrosa Russelle P. Ballestar, ESMEL Fellow (Batch 3)
President, FLP Scholars' Society, 2026-2028
RE: **CANCELLATION — Table “Save Your Seat” Call for Legal Scholars (Il Convivio & L’Apéritif, 21 August 2026); Call of Gathering RESERVED; and VOTING BALLOT — YES / NO Participation**

Dear Fellow Scholars,

This letter is written in the spirit of candor that our fellowship deserves. Over 17 and 18 August 2026, the enhanced southwest monsoon (*habagat*) brought Metro Manila and much of Luzon to a standstill. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) recorded 201.7 millimetres of rainfall over Metro Manila in only five hours on 17 August — nearly half of what Tropical Storm Ondoy delivered in twenty-four. Red rainfall warnings covered the National Capital Region, Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, and parts of Cavite. Roads went under. Schools and government offices moved to alternative setups on 18 August. Families across the regions our Scholars serve remain displaced.

With the wellbeing of every Scholar as our first duty, and with the country still in the recovery phase, the Office of the President hereby announces the following:

THE DECISION

The Table “Save Your Seat” Call — the FLP BRIDGE Dinner Fellowship, *Il Convivio & L’Apéritif*, scheduled for **Friday, 21 August 2026 (Il Convivio 11 AM - 5 PM; L’Apéritif 6 PM)** — is **hereby CANCELLED, and the Call of Gathering RESERVED**. All associated regional dinner tables from Batanes to Basilan are likewise stood down for this date.

RECEIVED ADVISEMENT

This cancellation is issued upon the advisement of the Chief, through the Office of the Foundation, with the guidance of the Immediate Past President and Fellow Atty. Arvin as Trustee liaison. It is an act of **reservation, not retreat**: the Call of Gathering is hereby held in reserve, to be re-issued on a date set upon the instruction of the Office of the Chief — and when the table is set again, it will carry with it a **superb announcement for the Legal Scholars' Society**. *Abangan*.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

a. Prior RSVPs reserved. All Offers to Accept, Consider, and Reschedule already received will be held in reserve and carried over automatically to the reset date. No re-submission is required.

b. Reset date, upon the Chief's instruction. The re-issued Call of Gathering will be circulated on a date set upon the instruction of the Office of the Chief, in coordination with the Trustees and our restaurant and LGU partners — and it will be paired with the superb announcement reserved for our Society. One letter, carrying both the rain check and the sunshine.

c. FGD on the Museum re-scoped. The Focus Group Discussion on the Museum for Liberty and Prosperity — originally lodged as Agenda 2 of Il Convivio — will be re-issued as a standalone session, with a hybrid (in-person and online) option to serve Scholars in still-affected regions.

d. Cast your vote — below, in this very letter. In line with this cancellation, the voting is sent and received via email. Each button below opens a pre-written, pre-addressed ballot to the Office of the President — just add your name and press send. Kindly indicate **YES** or **NO** on participation for each of the three items.

✎ FLPSS VOTING BALLOT · REF: FLPSS-BALLOT-2026-022 ✎

VOTE for YES or NO *Participation*

Not a form to fill — a voice to be counted. One click opens your email, pre-written and pre-addressed. Add your name and press send. Your vote and any comments are received via email by the Office of the President.

BALLOT ITEM 1

The FLP BRIDGE Project

Free Legal Aid Clinic · Business Mentorship · Job Fair — targeting 100 legal aid beneficiaries, 200 MSME mentees, 300 job seekers.

✓ VOTE YES

✗ VOTE NO

Opens a pre-filled
ballot email

BALLOT ITEM 2

The Legal Aid Community Event Call — Cavinti & Quezon City

Community legal aid outreach in two host localities, coordinated with the respective LGUs and partner legal aid offices.

✓ VOTE YES

✗ VOTE NO

Opens a pre-filled
ballot email

BALLOT ITEM 3

The Focus Group Discussion Call

FLPSS input to the Museum for Liberty and Prosperity — clusters: Moot Court & Debates · Daily Galleries · Conferences & Clinics · Roll-Out & Governance.

✓ VOTE YES

✗ VOTE NO

Opens a pre-filled
ballot email

Ballots route to miles@integrity-chain.ph · mpballestar@upd.edu.ph — Office of the FLPSS President, Term 2026–2028.
Buttons not working on your device? Simply reply to this email with your YES / NO per item. Abstentions are recorded as such.

A NOTE OF CARE

To our Scholars in Bulacan, Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, Cavite, and the flooded barangays of Quezon City and the Capital — please stay safe, stay dry, and stay in touch. If any Scholar or a Scholar’s family requires immediate assistance, please write directly to the Office of the President at the contact points below. No Scholar walks this week alone.

Bawal ang absent, mga ka-Scholar — but only when it is safe to be present. Rain check. The table will be set again, and we will gather.

Under the Rule of Law, in service, and with prayers for our country,

MILAGROSA RUSSELLE P. BALLESTAR

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- cc:**
- Retired Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban — Chairman, Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity
 - The Immediate Past President, FLP Scholars’ Society
 - Fellow Atty. Arvin — FLP Trustee Liaison
 - FLPSS Board of Directors, 2026-2028
 - Mark Anthony S. Angeles, CPM — FLPSS Assistant Secretary; FLP BRIDGE Co-Organiser
 - Wallace Panlilio — FLPSS Advisory Council Team; Gathering Co-Organiser

Sources cited: PAGASA rainfall advisories, 17-18 August 2026; Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) flood bulletins. Recipients are advised to verify current PAGASA and NDRRMC advisories for their locality.

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