

## **Interpreting DNA evidence in disputed parentage cases**

De Ungria, M.C.A., Magno, M.M.F, Tabbada, K.A., Calacal, G.C.,  
Delfin, F.C., Frani, A.M. and Halos, S.C.

DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute  
University of the Philippines, Quezon City

**The Integrated Bar of the Philippines News letter. 2002, 30-31.** The technology for performing DNA analysis for forensic purposes is currently being developed and applied by the UP-NSRI-DNA Analysis Laboratory, which has established a population genetic database at nine short tandem repeat (STR) loci. The DNA Analysis Laboratory has also accepted a variety of both civil and criminal cases, including some involving contested paternity/maternity, inheritance disputes, DNA profiling, testing of trace (biological) evidence and rape, several of which have proceeded to court. Court decisions made at various levels of the judicial system – from Regional Trial Courts to the Supreme Court – reflect differing levels of familiarity with the principles and applications of DNA testing.

In the Philippines, guidelines that cover paternity issues are outlined in the Family Court Act (Republic Act or RA 8369). As yet, there is no guideline for the recognition of DNA analysis results in cases of disputed parentage. The present paper outlines recommendations for the proper interpretation of the results of DNA-based paternity testing in the Philippines.

### **KEYWORDS**

Paternity testing, forensic DNA evidence, Philippine laws, disputed parentage, Family Court Act