In one’s professional life, some people are lucky and I think I am one of them.

My long stint as Secretary to the Monetary Board of the then Central Bank of the Philippines, now Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, allowed me to work closely with six Governors and the Monetary Board. Wittingly or unwittingly, they became my mentors.

Each of the six governors was a star in his own right, with differing expertise, background, views, and approaches to problem resolution.

There was this fatherly but tough executive who could get the right people with the right expertise to surround him and make them really work to attain the objectives he wanted to attain. There was this professional who was quick to scold but slow to praise, yet very inspiring and motivating; one finds himself working hard for him. There were those relatively young in age but mature in their decisions and seasoned enough to handle the problems before them. They spoke with conviction and acted in accordance with their principles.

The members of the Monetary Board also came from different backgrounds, each one of them being just like any of the six governors.

What I have learned from them—

Hard work always pays, not necessarily in terms of salary and promotion, but more in acquiring professional growth.

The ability to listen and having an open mind result in getting the better ideas.

Getting into a dialogue is much better than conducting a monologue. Learning your subject well gives you self-confidence.

In Government, one cannot and should not act to please for nowhere is it more true than in Government service that there is no such thing as a win-win solution. Instead, decide in accordance with
your conviction and principles to the best of your knowledge and in all good faith.

In the end, only a clean conscience will allow you to be at peace with yourself and sleep soundly, and more importantly, only a good name will last and endure.

A lawyer and Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Atty. Barin’s high level of professionalism, competence, integrity, and solid credentials were her stepping stones to a successful career in government. Hence, she treasures her appointments as Chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission, Member of the Monetary Board and present position as Chair of the SEC.