



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
COLLEGE OF LAW

Alanis v. CA: **Using International Law to Justify a Change of Surname**

*1st National Convention on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
2 September 2021*

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Guide questions

Q1. Important?

Q2. International Law to justify a change of surname in the Alanis Case?

Q3. International Law to justify a change of surname in other cases?

Q1. Important?

A1. Yes, because of result: legitimate child can drop his father's surname and use his mother's surname

A2. Yes, because of reasoning: SC used International Law to create an exception to the mandatory rules on use of surnames

Q2. How was International Law used in Alanis Case?

International Legal System



Philippine Legal System



STEP 2.
Source?

STEP 1.
Binding rule?

STEP 3.
Binding on
PHL State?

STEP 4.
Domesticated?

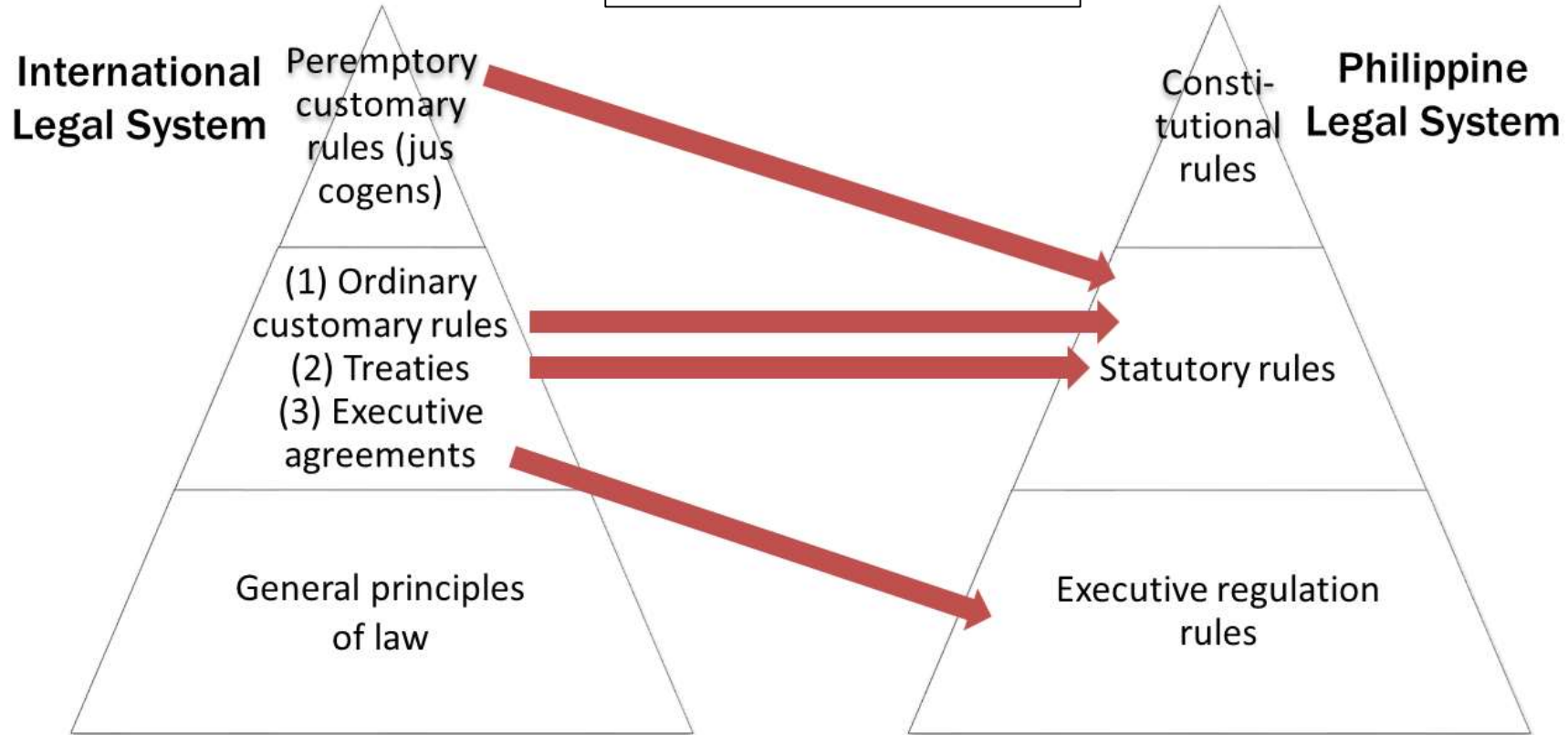
STEP 5. In
PHL hierarchy,
same level as
statute? or
executive
regulation?

STEP 6. Effect on
PHL rules from
domestic sources?

If conflict, then
Sequential Analysis

STEP 7. Apply to PHL case

STEP 5. In PHL hierarchy, same level as statute? or executive regulation?



Q3. How can International Law be used in other cases?

A1. Married woman's continued use of her maiden name

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

A2. Married man's use of his wife's maiden name

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women



A3. Illegitimate child's use of father's surname against father's will

Convention on the Rights of the Child

A4. Person's use of a surname of indigenous cultural community

UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples