



Press Release
22 June 2020

PLLO Undersecretary Ryan Estevez designated as new UniFAST OIC-Executive Director

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has approved the designation of Atty. Ryan Legisniana Estevez as Officer-in-Charge/Executive Director of the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST).

Prior to his designation as OIC-Executive Director, Atty. Estevez served as Undersecretary of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) in the House of Representatives.

The UniFAST Secretariat supports the UniFAST Board in carrying out its functions under Republic Act 10687 otherwise known as the “UniFAST Act”, and in implementing student financial assistance programs under RA 10931 or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.

Atty. Estevez entered government service as a legislative staff of former Senate President Aquilino “Nene” Pimentel Jr. after passing the bar exams in 2007. When Senator Pimentel’s term ended, he worked in the House of Representatives under *Bagong Henerasyon* (BH) Partylist Representative Bernadette Herrera-Dy. He also became the Chief Political Officer of former Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III in 2016.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte appointed Atty. Estevez as Undersecretary of the PLLO on January 6, 2017. As Undersecretary for PLLO, he assisted the PLLO Secretary in promoting Presidential initiatives and acted as a conduit between the Office of the President and the individual members of Congress, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other cooperative interest groups supportive of the President. He assisted in the drafting of bills and resolutions to ensure that policies and bills are in consonance with the legislative agenda of the President or the Administration. He left the PLLO on June 2, 2020 to join the UNIFAST.

Prior to joining the government, he taught music, religious education, humanities and law courses in public and private higher education institutions (HEIs). He also gave lectures and served as an adviser on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) to various civic and nongovernment organizations.

He finished his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at the Rogationist Seminary College-Adamson University, Bachelor of Laws at the University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi Inc., Master of Arts in Religion Education at the Ateneo de Manila University and Master of Arts in Public Policy at the National Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan.

J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA

Chairman

Commission on Higher Education and UniFAST Board