

11 January 2021

**THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE  
DEANSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW  
c/o DR. LAVERNE C. DE LA PEÑA**  
College of Music  
University of the Philippines

Re: Nomination of Prof. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan, II  
for the Deanship of the U.P. College of Law

Dear Dr. de la Peña,

Greetings! May this letter find you well.

I write in connection with the search for the next Dean of the University of the Philippines (U.P.) College of Law and to nominate Prof. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan, II for the said position.

I am a recently retired member of the regular faculty of the said College and was, among others, a former Director of the U.P. Office of Legal Aid (OLA), the free legal aid office of our law school. With my endorsement, Prof. Vistan succeeded me as Director of the said office.

The same reasons why I supported Prof. Vistan's appointment as Director of OLA are the same reasons why I nominate him now for the Deanship of the U.P. College of Law. I believe that his demonstrated ability to deliver on the work demands placed on him, his love for teaching and mentoring, his rapport and ability to work with fellow professors, students and staff, and the resiliency, creativity and decisiveness that I already saw in him as a student of mine in the law school, make him suitable for the demands that would be placed on the Dean of our College during these times of far-reaching and difficult changes.

After Prof. Vistan's appointment as regular faculty in 2015, he was immediately exposed to the administrative, research and policy aspect of our work as he was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Institute of

International Legal Studies of the U.P. Law Center. After his return from his Master of Laws studies at the Yale Law School in 2017 where he is currently also a doctoral candidate, he was then appointed Assistant to the Dean for University Council and Academic Affairs and became our College's representative in the University Council Curriculum Committee, functions that he still performs to this day. He then successfully managed the revival of our own Master of Laws (LL.M.) program, working with other law professors and then with colleagues from other units as the program went through our University's curriculum revision process. We have now admitted two batches of LL.M. students since the program was relaunched in 2019.

Having delivered on what was asked of him by the College, and with over a decade's experience as OLA Director guiding me, I supported Prof. Vistan's appointment to the directorship of OLA as I knew his love for teaching and rapport with students placed him in an ideal position to mentor our law interns and share his lawyering experience with them. His administrative abilities as OLA Director were soon demonstrated. Under his watch, an on-going program to increase and adjust OLA's capacities is being undertaken with the following results thus far: the establishment of an OLA office in U.P. Bonifacio Global City (BGC) that welcomed our first batch of senior students there in 2019; the recruitment of more supervising lawyers and sourcing of additional facilities for both OLA Diliman and BGC; the operationalization of remote counselling through videoconferencing and email correspondence between clients and our student interns immediately after quarantine restrictions were relaxed last year; and the recently commenced collaboration with the Commission of Human Rights for the latter's Expanded E-Lawyering Service.

In the meantime, Prof. Vistan accepted additional responsibility for the University as he was appointed Executive Director of U.P. BGC last year. In such capacity, he is a member of U.P. President's Advisory Council, through which he has not only gained insights about developments and concerns throughout the U.P. System, but also made contributions to recent decisions made at the U.P. System level. This experience will prove useful should Prof. Vistan become the Dean of the U.P. College of Law.

In support of this nomination of Prof. Vistan, I am submitting with this nomination letter the following:

- (i) Prof. Vistan's curriculum vitae;
- (ii) his signed letter of acceptance wherein he also states his willingness to serve as Dean of the College of Law; and
- (iii) a document presenting his vision, plans and programs for the College.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
**PROF. ROWENA DAROY MORALES**