

News Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
25 May 2022



BWC congratulates Attorneys Espinas and Quiñones on passing the #BestBarEver2020_21 examination

Getting into law school is a nerve-wracking process. Not only does it require knowledge of the law, but also logic and analytical skills. All the hurdles will make anyone stronger, and those who have gone through this experience will be able to learn, process, and move forward.

The Bureau of Working Conditions is delighted to share that two of its Senior Labor and Employment Officers, Queen Therese Espinas and Shirley Marie Quiñones, are among the 8,241 (72.28%) who successfully passed the #BestBarEver2020_21 examination.

Atty. Espinas started with the DOLE as an Intern under the DOLE-Government Internship Program. At the end of the three-month program, she was later employed by DOLE as a service contract employee for years before finally becoming a permanent employee. Through the years, she gained valuable job experience which prepared her for a career in government service. In spite of all the challenges and difficulties, Atty. Espinas didn't give up on her dreams.

Attorney Quiñones, on the other hand, began her career with the Department as a Human Resources Development Service employee. She then became an inspector at the Regional Office, and years later, she is among the Labor Inspector Auditor of the Department. She has been serving the public in every manner she can for over ten years.

As working students, both of them have had a hard time juggling work and school responsibilities. For Atty. Espinas, it is both challenging and fulfilling. She is proud of herself for being able to send herself to law school out of her own pocket, considering how costly law school is. For Atty. Quiñones, law schooling is a tedious task but she believed that it can be attained as long as one has a strong sense of discipline and grit. She shared that back in law school, she had only limited time to study. She reports to work during weekdays and attends law school on weekends under the executive class.

Atty. Quiñones mentioned that reviewing during the pandemic is quite unique. It tested their physical, mental, and psychological endurance. Both of them were anxious before 2022 Bar Exam schedule because of the possibility of acquiring the virus and being unable to take the bar exam.

As DOLE employees, Atty. Espinas and Atty. Quinones are grateful for the opportunity of working and pursuing law school at the same time. It helped them finance and support their endeavor as they are a self-supporting working student.

Atty. Espinas encouraged aspiring lawyers, particularly working students, to always give their best and never get tired of trying harder. On the other hand, Atty. Quiñones said that law school is definitely not easy but as long as you believe in God and yourself, everyone will be able to realize their dream. She said, *“Some will be supportive, others won't. Never mind the latter, and just prove them wrong. Rest if you must, but never give up.”*

Last 02 May 2022, Attorneys Espinas and Quiñones took their oaths as new lawyers at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City. They signed the Roll of Attorneys later in the same month.

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