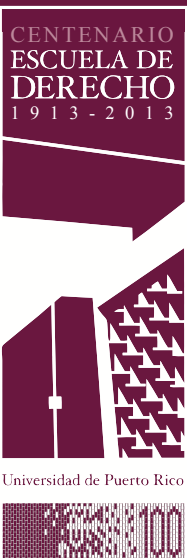




# LL.M.

MASTER OF LAWS PROGRAM  
University of Puerto Rico  
School of Law





Dear student::

Thank you for your interest in our LL.M. Program. The goal of this program is to develop attorneys well versed in Civil Law and Common Law, with the option of specializing their graduate studies in core areas that respond to their academic and professional interests. Our program is open to both foreign attorneys and attorneys with Juris Doctors from universities accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). Our program boasts distinguished faculty with excellent academic backgrounds, while keeping costs accessible in comparison with law schools in the United States.

For Latin American students, we have designed a sequence of courses for the in-depth study of orality in criminal law and criminal procedure. This sequence also responds to the general request to provide courses and seminars on the topic. For graduates of law schools in Puerto Rico, the United States, Latin America and other foreign jurisdictions we have designed a sequence of courses conducive to judicial training.

Within this academic environment, we will train legal professionals who aspire to be considered for the bench. Thus, our School takes the lead on collaborating in the formation and training of our judges while professionalizing judicial studies. In Puerto Rico, both the executive and legislative branches may take this background into account when making appointments that have taken on a transcendental nature due to the controversies faced by our Island today.

Graduates from law schools in the United States, Latin America and other foreign jurisdictions may choose to follow these course sequences or opt to design a sequence that better ad-

dresses his or her specific professional interests within the free design structure of our LL.M. program. This program allows students 20 credits in elective courses out of a total 24 credits required for the degree.

Additionally, through summer and winter sessions as well as mini-courses in the fall and spring, we kick-off an executive track that will allow practicing attorneys or judges from the United States and other jurisdictions to take courses in these extra sessions without having to stay in Puerto Rico for the entire year. This flexibility addresses the modern reality of many people that are interested in completing graduate studies but need an option that does not require them to leave their homes for extended periods of time.

Our program is one of the few Master of Laws programs offered in Spanish at an ABA-accredited law schools. We also offer sufficient courses in English to allow students to complete their degrees in that language.

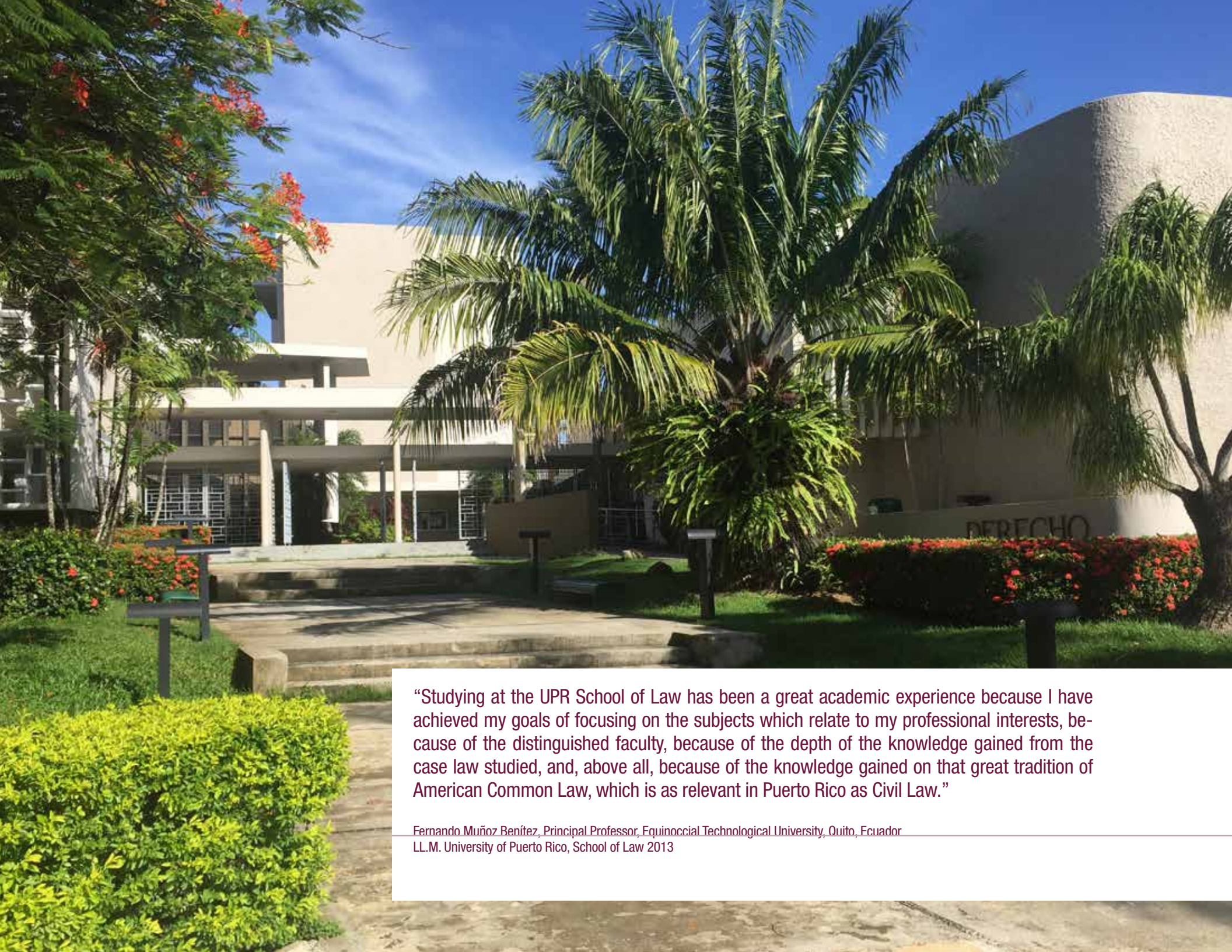
I invite you to learn more about our program and to visit our website at [derecho.uprrp.edu](http://derecho.uprrp.edu). You could become part of our vibrant community where the formation of legal professionals is intertwined with a commitment to promoting access to justice and the common good. We are ready to receive you.

We wish you the best in your decision,

**Vivian I. Neptune Rivera**

Dean, University of Puerto Rico School of Law





“Studying at the UPR School of Law has been a great academic experience because I have achieved my goals of focusing on the subjects which relate to my professional interests, because of the distinguished faculty, because of the depth of the knowledge gained from the case law studied, and, above all, because of the knowledge gained on that great tradition of American Common Law, which is as relevant in Puerto Rico as Civil Law.”

Fernando Muñoz Benítez, Principal Professor, Equinoccial Technological University, Quito, Ecuador  
LL.M. University of Puerto Rico, School of Law 2013



# Commitment of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law



The University of Puerto Rico School of Law is committed to preparing competent attorneys and legal professionals with clear knowledge of its social, professional, and ethical responsibilities. As an academic community, the School of Law contributes to the conservation, improvement, and transmission of the Law in Puerto Rico through endeavors in both academia and service, in accordance with democratic values and principles and the most advanced legal developments. Likewise, the School of Law aspires to prepare professionals to forge policies that will promote social change through the Law.

The School of Law provides a breadth of legal knowledge in preparation of its students. The acquisition of information regarding the many rules of law subject to frequent amendments and different interpretations is only one aspect of the preparation needed to participate in the legal profession. The best attorneys are those that understand the processes behind legal reasoning, who

have developed creative thinking, intellectual discipline, and critical analysis, and who have acquired a capacity for creating legal solutions adjusted to the new circumstances in a world in constant flux. The School of Law devotes both faculty and resources to helping its students in developing these skills.

The School boasts a group of professors who have graduated from the best legal institutions in the United States, Puerto Rico, Latin America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Along with our faculty, the School also has the Law Library, one of the largest law school libraries in the United States. It has more than 450,000 volumes, or its equivalent, the most comprehensive collection of Caribbean Law, and one of the best collections of legal materials on the countries of the region.



# Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program

The School of Law offers a Master of Laws Degree with various curricular alternatives. Participants can complete a General Program in which they select courses within their areas of interest. Another alternative is to complete one of the two available curricular sequences of Judicial Training and Orality in the Penal System.

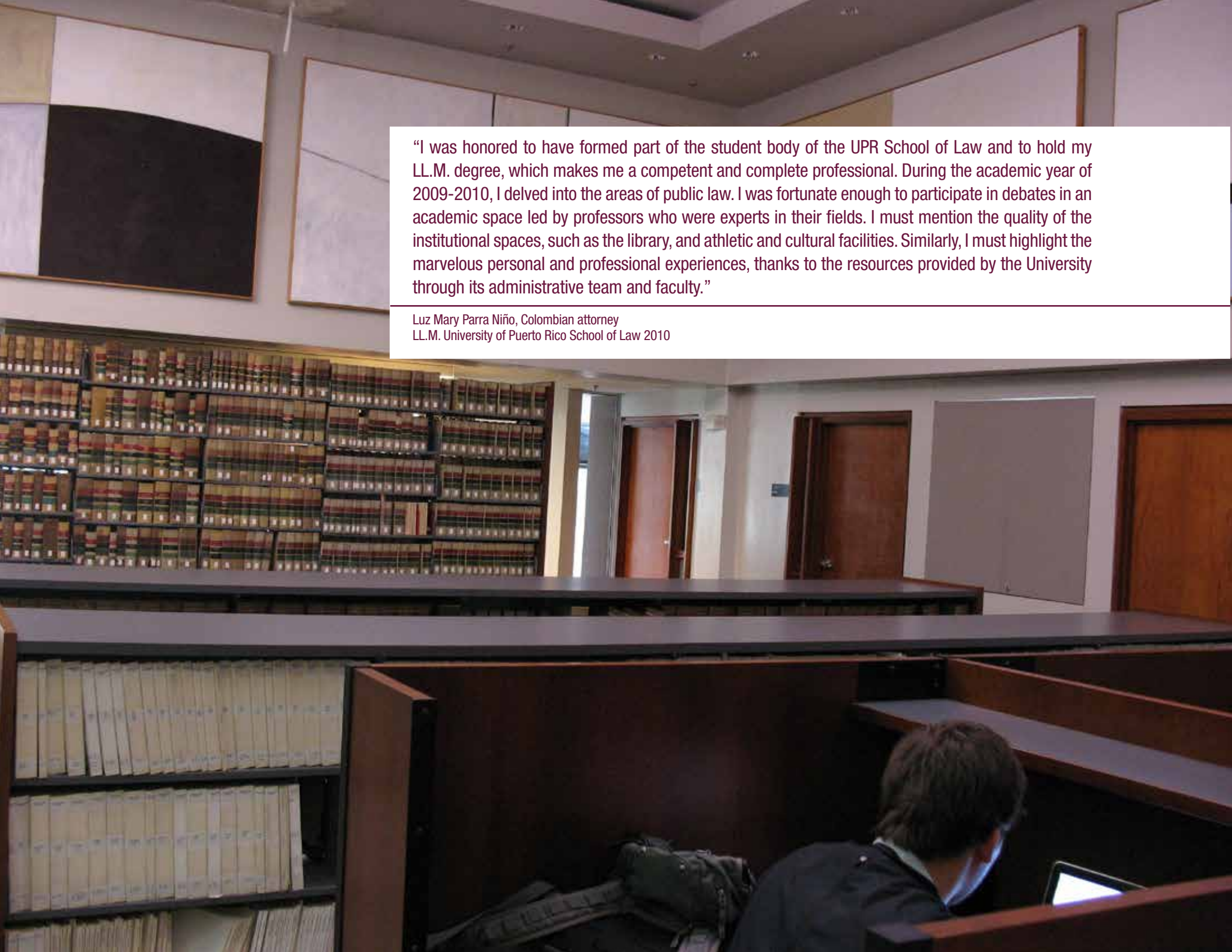
The General program is available to all attorneys who have graduated from law schools in the United States and foreign jurisdictions. Its goal is to educate attorneys in the principles and procedures of the legal systems of both the Anglo-American "Common law" tradition and the Civil Law tradition.

The Curricular Sequences of Judicial Training and Orality in the Penal System are available to attorneys graduated from law schools in Puerto Rico, as well as law schools from the United States and foreign jurisdictions. These curricular alternatives aim to develop legal professionals with the skills needed for the adjudication of justice within the Judicial Branch and a comprehensive knowledge of the procedural penal system.

## The legal professional that completes the LL.M.:

- Will study the world's two major the legal systems: civil law and common law. This will better place students in a professional environment that is becoming more international each day.
- Will be able to adapt his or her own academic program to his or her interests.
- Will have the opportunity to interact with professors who graduated from the world's best universities, many of whom have authored the most important legal texts in Puerto Rico.
- Will belong to an active academic community that receives world-class lecturers.
- Will have the opportunity to study in the best School of Law on the Island at a very competitive cost, compared to both Puerto Rico and the United States.
- Will be able to apply for the bar examination in different jurisdictions in the United States, including New York, Texas, California, and Louisiana. Each graduate must evaluate the requirements for the bar examination in the different jurisdiction..





"I was honored to have formed part of the student body of the UPR School of Law and to hold my LL.M. degree, which makes me a competent and complete professional. During the academic year of 2009-2010, I delved into the areas of public law. I was fortunate enough to participate in debates in an academic space led by professors who were experts in their fields. I must mention the quality of the institutional spaces, such as the library, and athletic and cultural facilities. Similarly, I must highlight the marvelous personal and professional experiences, thanks to the resources provided by the University through its administrative team and faculty."

Luz Mary Parra Niño, Colombian attorney  
LL.M. University of Puerto Rico School of Law 2010

# Program of Studies for the Master's Degree (LL.M.)

The LL.M. Academic Program is designed to be completed in one (1) year of full-time studies, which can be extended to a maximum of two (2) years for good cause. This course of study consists of twenty-four (24) credit hours.

The School of Law has academic offerings in summer (June and July) and winter (January), allowing graduate students to organize their course load to align with their availability to be in Puerto Rico as well as their professional needs.

Students who have obtained a legal degree or its equivalent from an institution of higher education not accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) must take the following required courses:

## **DERE 7668 Legal Structure and Processes in Common Law and its Interaction with Civil Law** (2 crédits)

Analysis of the major institutions, structures and processes of Common Law and its interaction with Civil Law. Discussion of the tendencies of convergence between both traditions in the structuring of the institutions of economic and politic integration.

All LL.M. students must take the following investigation seminar as a required course::

## **Advanced Legal Research Seminar** (2 crédits)

The student will select a seminar on a topic related to his or her field of studies among the seminars offered each semester. The student will develop a research project, as a graduation requirement, that will lead to the completion of an extensive research paper, at the level of which it could be published, under the supervision and with the evaluation of the professor teaching the seminar.

## **Personalized Credit Selection** (18-20 crédits)

The student may satisfy the remaining 18-20 credits by selecting courses within his or her areas of interest. The program will be designed to allow each student to focus a substantial number of credits on the subject matter of his or her preference to allow him or her to delve more deeply into the same. These areas include orality in legal proceedings, intellectual property, administrative law, judicial training, environmental law, and law and technology, among others.

Each student will elaborate his or her academic program in close collaboration with the Program Coordinator to allow for a reasoned selection of courses. In this way, each student is allowed greater flexibility in the promotion of his or her interests, considering his or her professional needs. Our curriculum provides more than 75 specialized courses and over 20 seminars on topics covering our legal profession.









Those attorneys who graduated from Puerto Rican law schools, as well as institutions from the United States and foreign jurisdictions have access to curricular sequences in Judicial Training and Orality in the Penal System. Below, as an example, we provide a detailed list of the different areas of interest that each student may opt to pursue and the potential classes that may be taken in each:

### **Judicial Training**

- Court Administration
- Theory and Practice of Adjudication
- Logic and Grammar of Legal Discourse
- Judicial Ethics
- New Rights in the 21st Century
- Law and Social Change
- Law and Poverty
- Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Therapeutic Jurisprudence
- Extraordinary Remedies
- Preparation, Development and Management of a Civil Case
- Appellate Procedure
- Seminar - Topics on Criminal Procedure:
  - Sentencing Laws and Corrections
- Seminar - Topics on Constitutional Law:
  - Formation of the Puerto Rican Judiciary



### **Orality in the Penal System**

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Therapeutic Justice
- Criminal Law
- Special Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Therapeutic Justice
- Extraordinary Remedies
- Juvenile Justice
- Search and Seizure
- Interrogation of Witnesses and Suspects
- Victims' Rights
- Pre-Trial Criminal Litigation: Interrogation of Witnesses and Suspects
- Litigation in Domestic Violence Cases
- Criminal and Civil Remedies
- Logic and Grammar of Legal Discourse
- Seminar - Topics in Criminal Law
- Seminar - Topics in Criminal Procedure:
  - Sentencing Law and Corrections
  - Theory and Practice of Adjudication

On the other hand, those attorneys who graduated from law schools from the United States and foreign jurisdictions may also select courses using the following topics as a guide:

### **American and Puerto Rican Economic Systems**

- Constitutional Law
- Mercantile Law
- Corporate Law
- Taxation of Business Associations
- Bankruptcy
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Cooperative Law
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Construction Law
- Federal Employment Discrimination
- Tax Law
- Banking Workshop
- Immigration Law
- Right to Work Legislation
- Secured Transactions
- Payment Systems
- Commercial Arbitration



### **Civil Litigation in an Orality System**

- Civil Procedure Law
- Evidence
- Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Depositions
- Federal Civil Legal Writing
- Federal Civil Procedure
- Appellate Process
- Federal Employment Litigation
- Technology in Litigation

### **Institutions and Norms of Anglo-American Public Law and the Judicial System**

- Constitutional Law
- Evidence
- Administrative Law
- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Procedure
- Federal Jurisdiction

### **Law, Development and Social Change**

- Constitutional Law
- Law and Social Change
- Law and Gender Discrimination
- Social Litigation
- Legal Aspects of Human Trafficking
- Law and Culture
- Law and Literature
- Law and Film
- New Rights in the 21 Century

### **Technology and Innovation**

- Trademark Law Transfers of Technology
- Law of the Internet and New Technologies
- Techno Feminism: Bodies, Gender and Law
- Introduction to Intellectual Property
- Media Law Copyright
- Advertising and Marketing Law
- IT Security Law
- Entertainment Law
- Patent Law
- Use of Technology in Litigation

### **Therapeutic Justice**

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Criminal Law through Therapeutic Justice
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Therapeutic Jurisprudence

“I feel highly satisfied with the quality of the education I received. I am confident that the knowledge I acquired will assist me in the execution of the duties that I am currently responsible for as a member of the Judiciary in the Dominican Republic.”

Dr. Ana María Elizabeth Pérez Zapata  
Chief Justice  
Labor Court of First Instance  
District of San Pedro de Macorís  
Dominican Republic



The School of Law professors boast varied professional backgrounds, both in the private and public sectors, which enrich their performance in academia. Aside from teaching, they dedicate a considerable amount of time to investigating legal issues and subject matter, and to sharing this legal knowledge through articles, books, and other publications. In the past years, the Faculty has published over thirty books on specialized topics, as well as various case books and teaching materials.

**José Julián Álvarez González**, BA, 1974, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1977; LLM, Yale Law School, 1978; Full Professor.

**Roberto Aponte Toro**, BA, 1967, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1969; MA, University of Essex, 1979; LLM, 1986; JSD, Harvard University, 1994; Full Professor.

**Luis Aníbal Avilés Pagán**, BS, 1984; University of Puerto Rico, MA in Physics, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 1986, JD Harvard Law School, 1992; LLM Université Pantheon-Assas Paris II, 2011; Full Professor.

**Rubén Berríos Martínez**, BA, Georgetown University, 1961; LLB, 1964, LLM, Yale Law School, 1965; Law Diploma, Universidad de Oxford, 1966; Full Professor.

**Ernesto Chiesa Aponte**, BA, 1964, MA, 1967, JD, University of Puerto Rico 1974; Full Professor.

**Carmelo Delgado Cintrón**, BA, 1963, LLB, University of Puerto Rico, 1966; Doctorate in Law, Complutense University of Madrid, 1974; MA, New York University, 1977; Full Professor.

## School of Law Faculty





**Carlos Díaz Olivo**, BBA, 1980, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1983; LLM, Harvard University, 1985; Full Professor.

**Guillermo Figueroa Prieto**, BBA, 1966, LLB, University of Puerto Rico, 1969; Full Professor.

**Érika Fontáñez Torres**, BA, 1996, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1999; LLM, London School of Economics, 2002; PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2017; Full Professor.

**Antonio García Padilla**, BBA, 1975, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1978; LLM, Yale Law School, 1981; Full Professor and Dean Emeritus.

**Chloé S. Georas**, BA, University of Puerto Rico, 1987; JD, New York University, 2004; MA in Art History, State University of New York, 1997; LLM, University of Ottawa, 2012; Doctoral Studies in the State University of New York, Binghamton; Associate Professor.

**Michel J. Godreau Robles**, BA, 1962, LLB, University of Puerto Rico, 1965; Doctor Juris, Munich University, 1969; Full Professor.

**Ana Cristina Gómez Pérez**, BA, Pontifical Bolivarian University, Medellín, Colombia, 2000; JD, University of Puerto Rico, 2004; University Carlos III of Madrid, Official Master, 2007; Doctorate in Law, Complutense University of Madrid, 2010; Diploma in Property Registry Law, Autonomous University of Madrid, 2011; Full Professor.

**Glenda Labadie Jackson**, BA, 1994, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1997; LLM, Harvard University, 1999; Doctorate in Civil Law, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, 2013; Full Professor.

**Hiram A. Meléndez Juarbe**, BA, 1997, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 2000; LLM, Harvard University, 2002; SJD, New York University, 2013; Full Professor.

**Oscar Miranda Miller**, BA, 2001, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 2005; LLM, SUNY Buffalo School of Law, 2007; Assistant Professor.

**Luis Muñiz Argüelles**, BA, Cornell University, 1968; MS, Columbia University, 1970; JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1975; Docteur, Université de Paris II, 1989; Full Professor.

**Vivian I. Neptune Rivera**, BA, 1992, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1995; LLM, Columbia University, 1998; Full Professor and Dean.

**Efrén Rivera Ramos**, BA, 1973, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1976; LLM, Harvard University, 1981; PhD, University of London, 1994; Full Professor.

**Luis E. Rodríguez Rivera**, BA, Yale University, 1994; JD, Harvard University, 1987; LLM, University of Cambridge, 1998; Full Professor.

**William Vázquez Irizarry**, BA, 1991, JD, University of Puerto Rico, 1994; LLM, London School of Economics, 1997; Full Professor and Associate Dean.

**Luis M. Villaronga Arostegui**, BA, Columbia University, 1963; LLB, Harvard University, 1966; MA, University of Pennsylvania, 1973; Full Professor.

**David Wexler**, BA, State University of New York, Harpur College, 1961; JD, New York University, 1964; Full Professor.



For more than 50 years, the Legal Aid Clinic has prepared the students of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law with skills needed as legal professionals. It has also served as a model for the creation of clinical courses in law schools all over Latin America including, for example, the San Carlos University in Guatemala, and has directly supported numerous professional training programs through the School of Law Trust.

The Clinic is an integral part of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law curriculum. It has extensive and modern facilities which closely recreate the conditions at a mid-size law firm. It is in that environment that students and faculty work daily in the care of cases and clients who come in search of excellent legal representation.

The Clinic is a component of the Master's program in law because students may select a clinic course related to their area of interest.

For students of the LL.M. program who did not graduate from an institution accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) and who are not admitted to practice in courts of Puerto Rico

## Legal Aid Clinic

or the United States, the Clinic provides them with a different alternative, offering them the opportunity to participate in the clinic course as an intern or trainee. As such, those interested may enroll in clinic courses and participate in litigation exercises, collaborate on the presentation of the cases, and assist in the courtroom without arguing directly before a judge.







## Housing

International students admitted to the program may opt to live in private residences of their own choosing. The University of Puerto Rico also provides students of the LL.M. program 6 apartments to rent in a residential building owned by the University and located a short distance from the School of Law.

Each apartment can house a maximum of three students and has three individual bedrooms and common areas including a living room, dining room, kitchen, and bathroom. The annual cost of housing is \$3,000 per student, which represents ten months of rental payments (from August to May). Rental payments include electricity, water, and telephone (local calls).

# Admissions Requirements

## All applicants must:

- Have obtained a Juris Doctor from an institution accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), with an average of B or higher, or its equivalent from a foreign institution of higher education that, based on the highest academic standards, is fully recognized by the state authorities in the jurisdiction it is located in.
- Be fluent in Spanish and have the ability to read and understand English, as evidenced by satisfactory results on the EXADEP or “Test of English as a Foreign Language” examination. The student may demonstrate his or her command of Spanish and English by providing evidence that he or she has taken courses in said languages in an accredited university. Special care will be taken to ensure the applicant’s reading ability in English, as well as reading comprehension in Spanish. The student must demonstrate his or her ability to write in both languages.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants have at least three years of legal work experience.
- Submit the following documentation as requirements for admission:
  - The completed application for admission to the School of Law.
  - Evidence of having obtained a Juris Doctor, or its equivalent degree in Law, as described above.
  - Two official transcripts of all degrees. The applicant must ensure that the institutions that conferred the degrees send the official sealed transcripts directly to the Office of Graduate, Joint and Exchange Studies of the School of Law (Oficina de Programas Graduados, Conjuntos y de Intercambio de la Escuela de Derecho). In cases where the university of provenance is not accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), the transcripts must be authenticated and apostilled by the appropriate authority in the country of the university that issued the degree.
  - Certify to having taken courses in Spanish and/or English, or TOEFL results, as notified directly by the Educational Testing Service. EXADEP results to demonstrate command of Spanish.
  - Letters of recommendation, of which at least one must be academic in nature, that can describe in detail the applicant’s academic aptitude, professional experience, and character.



- *Curriculum Vitae*
- Personal statement which includes the applicant's personal background and profile, reasons for competing master's degree in law, areas of interest, and professional plans.
- Payment of \$75 USD. Foreign students may pay via credit card or send a money order made out to the **University of Puerto Rico.**

Once the applicant complies with all these requirements, his or her application will go through an evaluation process.

The application for admission must be completed on the form provided by the School. The application must be submitted no later than April 15 of the year in which admission is sought. Those students interested in starting their studies in January or summer should contact the Program Coordinator to evaluate this possibility.

Students admitted to the Program who are not citizens of the United States of America must request and obtain a student visa from the United States Embassy in his or her country of origin. The University of Puerto Rico will provide each admitted student the required Form I-20. The student should then complete the financial certification included with the application for admission, as well as the medical certificate of good health, and submit both forms to the School of Law.

For more information on how to register for the TOEFL, please visit: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) or [www.ets.org/toefl/contact](http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact)

**For more information, please visit:**  
**<http://derecho.uprrp.edu>**

**Postal address:**  
UPR SCHOOL OF LAW  
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Universidad de Puerto Rico

