

The UPR Resiliency Law Center is an initiative of the University of Puerto Rico Law School, Río Piedras Campus

## Mission

To shift the balance of power toward local communities and to ensure that disaster recovery and rebuilding in Puerto Rico is effective, fair and resilient, and that climate change issues are taken into account.

## Vision

Puerto Rico disaster recovery and rebuilding processes and projects, in which local communities are meaningfully involved and engaged in a disaster recovery and rebuilding that is effective, fair and resilient, and strengthened to advocate powerfully for policies that promote Puerto Rican communities' resiliency and fight climate change.

## Main approaches

The RLC focuses on three main components:

- capacity building
- advocacy center
- direct legal services



The work at the Center will promote a faster recovery in Puerto Rico, ensuring a fair and resilient distribution of aid to promote wealth creation among disadvantaged communities. In this way, we aspire to develop a repeatable framework for future disaster recovery in Puerto Rico and a more active and educated community in advocacy and good governance processes.

## Contact information

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# UPR RESILIENCY LAW CENTER



**RLC**  
UPR Resiliency Law Center

## Capacity Building

In the capacity building program, we promote the knowledge and skills of students, attorneys, and other professionals to participate in calls for federal funds and programs, and also advocate for an effective and inclusive recovery.

## Certification of Legal Skills for Resilient Recovery

Once a year, the RLC offers the Certification of Legal Skills for Resilient Recovery. It consists in a series of 15 courses through which participants can specialize in the following areas:

- Federal Grants and Contracting
- Advocacy and Climate Change

To obtain the certification, in any of the two (2) areas, the participant must take three (3) core courses: 1) Grants, 2) Federal Contracting and 3) Advocacy. In addition, the participant must choose and complete four (4) elective courses, of which three (3) will be from the desired specialization and one (1) from the other specialty.

## Advocacy Center

The advocacy center will work to promote an effective and equitable recovery and, in turn, awareness of climate risk and the need to build resilience through recovery programs. We are actively advocating, along with other groups, organizations and companies in Puerto Rico and in the United States, for the inclusion of the Puerto Rican civil society in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico. With the collaboration of students, professors, lawyers, community leaders and professionals from different disciplines, we will be developing specific advocacy strategies, materials and educational campaigns on the topics worked on.



## EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY FOR COMMUNITIES

## Direct Legal Services

Finally, we offer legal services and legal representation to entities, both non-profit organizations and small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, who are seeking to insert themselves in the reconstruction processes of Puerto Rico. The following two areas are worked on:

### Federal Grants and Contracts

In the area of contracting and federal grants, the UPR Resiliency Law Center offers legal advice and representation to small and medium-sized businesses and non-profit organizations that lack the necessary resources to acquire legal services of this technical nature. Likewise, legal support is offered regarding the obtaining of federal subsidies and contracts to those entities that require it.

### Climate

The UPR Resiliency Law Center also offers legal advice and representation, in courts and administrative agencies, to communities, non-profit organizations and small businesses that lack the financial resources necessary to acquire legal services on issues in the area of climate change and resilience.