ESCUELA DE DERECHO

Universidad de Puerto Rico

Facultad

Statement from Faculty Members of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law Regarding Threats to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives
April 8, 2025
(English version)

We, the undersigned faculty members of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, in response to threats against diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, feel compelled to express ourselves and publicly reaffirm our commitment to the School of Law's policy, which was unanimously approved by our Faculty on December 3, 2024. The policy reads as follows:

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

The University of Puerto Rico School of Law is committed to the existence of a diverse community in all its manifestations. Diversity provides alternative perspectives, enriches experiences within the Law School, and is an essential component for building both a culture of institutional equity and shaping the professional identity of jurists. The diverse backgrounds of each person fundamentally influence their vision of the Law and the way they learn it.

The Law School recognizes that accessible legal education is a necessary condition for access to justice. Furthermore, it acknowledges that, given the socioeconomic inequality gap and demographic challenges facing our country, it is imperative that the institution's activities, in all aspects, promote the access and inclusion of individuals from diverse and historically excluded communities.

The Law School aspires to be an academic center focused on accessible legal education and on the reflection, analysis and practice of Law as an instrument of social transformation, with a perspective of justice that cultivates human dignity. To these ends, the Law School adopts the paradigm of intersectionality to foster an environment that generates a sense of belonging, provides the necessary support and conditions to remain in the Law School, and promotes the full development of all members of the community. The Law School will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, functional diversity, age, birth, national origin, foreign status, immigration status, diasporic condition, native language or accent, marital status, political or religious beliefs, appearance, pregnancy, caregiving responsibilities, being or having been a victim of gender-based violence, being a person deprived of liberty, military or veteran status, and any other consideration based on prejudices and stereotypes. The School is committed to providing a dignified, inclusive and equitable environment for all people across all areas of its operations.

To build a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Law School has undertaken and will continue to implement multiple initiatives involving the different operational areas of the institution that impact both its internal community and the broader external community. The composition, operations, activities, services, interactions, and use of information and communication technologies in the Law School will effectively embody these principles of essential human dignity.

Any attempt to prevent the execution of the aforementioned policy constitutes a violation of academic freedom. Therefore, we also reaffirm our role as educators and unequivocally condemn any initiative that seeks to undermine the academic freedom of the University and all those who comprise our academic community.

Signed by:

Aníbal Acevedo Vilá	Chloé Georas Santos	Mildred Negrón-Martínez
Yara I. Alma Bonilla	Vivian González-Méndez	Vivian Neptune Rivera
José A. Alvarado Vázquez	Belén Guerrero Calderón	Luis Pellot Juliá
José Julián Álvarez González	Carolyn Guzmán Agosto	Miguel Á. Rivera Álvarez
Rubén Berríos Martínez	Cristina Hernández González	Efrén Rivera Ramos
Yanis Blanco Santiago	Mariana I. Hernández Gutiérrez	Mayté Rivera Rodríguez
Georgina Candal Segurola	María E. Hernández Torrales	Griselle M. Robles Ortiz
Manuel Clavell Carrasquillo	Mariluz Jiménez Colón	Luis E. Rodríguez Rivera
Laura M. Coss Guzmán	Glenda Labadie Jackson	Anabelle Rodríguez Rodríguez
Carmelo Delgado Cintrón	Wilbert López Moreno	Iris Rosario Nieves
Érika Fontánez Torres	Alfonso Martínez Piovanetti	Pedro Saadé Lloréns
Celeste E. Freytes González	Hiram Meléndez Juarbe	Samuel Serrano Medina
María de los Á. Garay	Mildred Meléndez Otero	Susana Serrano Mondesí
Emmalind García García	Oscar Miranda Miller	Maria Teresa Szendrey Ramos
María del Rosario García Miranda	Nilda M. Navarro-Cabrer	Jorge Toledo Reyna