

PUCPR  
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE PUERTO RICO ESCUELA DE DERECHO  
(Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law) [\[1\]](#)

Forty six years of history with more than 4,000 alumni; the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law was founded in 1961 in the City of Ponce, Puerto Rico on the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico's main campus. The Law School received the accreditation from the Puerto Rican Superior Educational Council of Puerto Rico on April 13, 1964. Shortly after, the American Bar Association granted provisional accreditation on April 12, 1967 and final accreditation on August of 1972.

The Law School offers the course of study leading to the J.D. degree through a three year full-time day and four year part-time evening program. It also offers two Joint Degree Programs, a J.D./M.B.A and J.D./M.P.A, with the University graduate programs. During the summer, the Law School holds an ABA Comparative Law Program in Spain.

It houses a major research library with a collection of about 207,095 volumes and extensive computer-assisted research capabilities including LEXIS/NEXIS, WESTLAW, and Microjuris with wireless access to the Internet from anywhere on the law school campus. It is the home of the *Revista de Derecho Puertorriqueño* (Journal of Puerto Rican Law), the first of its kind in Puerto Rico, which is a student and faculty edited law review published since 1961.

The Law School is noted for its Legal Services Clinic and Externship programs that offer its students the opportunity to serve the community by providing legal services to low-income clients. The Legal Clinic and Externship programs provide an excellent opportunity for training students in advocacy, administrative and judicial proceedings both at the local as well as the federal levels. The participation and completion of this program is a requirement for graduation.

It has the most active national Law Student Organization in Puerto Rico, with local chapters of The Federalist Society, The American Bar Association, The Federal Bar Association and The American Association of Trial Lawyers, among others. The Law School is glad to have among its Alumni [\[2\]](#) Efraín Rivera-Pérez, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. Other outstanding alumni can also be found in our communities, among them are Antonio Faz-Alzamora, former President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Aida Delgado, US Magistrate and US District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico; Javier Echevarría-Vargas, ex-Secretary of Consumer Affairs; Iván Ayala-Cádiz, former Secretary of Consumer Affairs and Superior Court Judge. In addition, some of the Alumni are judges at the Appellant and the District Courts plus several of them are owners of some of the most prominent law firms in Puerto Rico.

Along with its remarkable staff, the Law School has reputable faculty. Within the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law's faculty are: Rafael Hernández-Colón, former Governor of

Puerto Rico; Pedro Ortiz-Álvarez, former Secretary of Consumers Affairs and current legal counsel to Gov. Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá; Héctor L. Acevedo, former Secretary of State and Mayor of San Juan; Javier Echevarría-Vargas, alumni and former Secretary of Consumer Affairs; José Alberto-Morales, former Dean of the Law School, President of the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and candidate for mayor of Ponce; Iván Ayala-Cadiz, alumni and former Secretary of Consumer Affairs and Superior Court Judge; Charles Cupril-Oppenheimer, served three times as Dean of the Law School, past Rotary District Governor, retired Mayor General from the Puerto Rico National Guard, one of the founders of Ponce School of Medicine and two time president of Phi Sigma Alpha; Héctor R. Cupril, alumni, former chairman Ponce Municipal Legislature and member of the Ponce School of Medicine Board of Trustees; founder and faculty advisor of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Torruella Chapter, the Federal Bar student chapter and the Federalist Society (first chapter in PR).

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[1] Most of the information in this short essay was taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical\\_Catholic\\_University\\_School\\_of\\_Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical_Catholic_University_School_of_Law). (last visit Aug. 28, 2007).

[2] Ivan A. Rodríguez-Seda is also a graduate from Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law and is the Author of *Is the United States' Liquidity Compromised?*, INTERNATIONAL LAW QUARTERLY, Volume XXII, No. 1, Summer 2006.