

APRIL NEWSLETTER

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!

By Carmen Lopez

LLSA is very excited to share this project with you! We have decided to create a monthly newsletter to keep our members informed of events, scholarships, and internships, but also to keep ourselves aware of what is happening in our Latinx community on a larger scale.

The newsletters are expected to be published during the first week of every month. We strive to write about topics that interest our members in order to promote a sense of community. If you would like to submit a story or an article already written, we will gladly accept and review any submissions. Our primary goal is to keep our community connected and engaged with each other, and to celebrate and acknowledge our achievements!



LLSA members at the Law & Equity Committee Banquet.



Gabriela reciting a prayer in Hebrew, Spanish, and English.

L&E Banquet Photos!

Our members volunteered to participate in L&E's program, and we could not be prouder!



Kevin shares LLSA's events and initiatives with the audience.



Alejandro gracefully plays his trumpet.

H.R. 2116, Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act

Spotlight Story submitted by Kevin Rodriguez and written by Carmen Lopez

On March 18, 2022, the U.S. House passed a bill, H.R. 2116, which would prohibit hair discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and several other venues. H.R. 2116, also known as Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act, or the CROWN Act, failed to advance under a special rule last month but advanced this time around with a vote of 235-189. Paige Smith, *U.S. House Passes Bill Banning Hairstyle Discrimination*, Bloomberg Law (Mar. 1, 2022, 11:00 AM), https://www.bloomberglaw.com/bloomberglawnews/daily-labor-report/X5TC9NA8000000?bna_news_filter=daily-labor-report#jcite.

According to the bill's findings, stereotypes associated with certain hairstyles and textures are often the basis for racial discrimination for people of color. Several groups support the bill, including the National Education Association and the CROWN Coalition. Adam M. Taylor, *BGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 2116, Natural hair Discrimination (2)*, Bloomberg Law (Feb. 25, 2022, 2:49 PM), https://www.bloomberglaw.com/product/blaw/bloomberglawnews/true/X1R5GRHG000000?bna_news_filter=true#jcite. According to a March 15 statement of administration policy. The White House also "strongly supports" the bill. The Biden administration stated, "Such discrimination has imposed significant economic costs, learning disruption, and denial of economic opportunities for people of color." Smith, *supra*.

However, the bill has not received such strong support from others. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) stated the vote was "unnecessary and duplicative." Smith, *supra*. Furthering his argument, by claiming "[E]ntities covered by federal civil rights laws may have race-neutral policies that everyone must follow . . . [Such as ensuring that] personal protective equipment fits properly and protects the wearer." Taylor, *supra*.

H.R. 2116 currently awaits a decision from the Senate. For more information about the bill and help in tracking where the bill currently is, please visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2116>.

April Events!

April 18 – 20 LLSA Member Voting Period

Do not forget to vote for the 2022-2023
E-Board and Marketing & Outreach
Committee Elections!

April 22, 6:00 p.m. @ The Station

Before the month is up, LLSA will be
hosting a social picnic. Join us for food,
games, and relaxation! Be on the lookout
for an email with additional information!



Photo taken at our headshot event on March 20, 2022.

Thank you to all who attended!

(From left to right: Jorge G., Carmen L., Imelsis T.,
Britny M., and Alejandro C.)

Victor Leite

Member Highlight by Alejandro J. Colón Cedeño

Victor Leite was born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and moved to Brasília for college. Although most of his family lives in Minas Gerais, Victor calls Brasília home.

Before coming to Penn State Law, Victor was a practicing attorney in Brazil, where he studied international relations in college, went to law school, and worked for the government for seven years. Victor and his husband, Denny Peixoto—also a 1L JD student at Penn State Law and a LLSA member—decided to change paths and start over in a different country. Victor has a clear vision of what he wants to do with his career: he wants to impact the law—how it is interpreted and construed—and to develop the law on a case-by-case basis, as he did in Brazil. Victor wants to work in international trade, likely in a big law firm.

In pursuit of this goal, Victor will be a 1L summer associate at King & Spalding LLP in Washington, D.C. He has received a scholarship through the LCLD and aspires to join the firm for a second year and, eventually, as a junior associate. In addition to working in D.C. for the summer, his vacation plans include attending the wedding of a very good friend in Brazil.



Recently, Victor finished his master's after balancing his JD classes with writing his dissertation. He has worked on his thesis for seven years and felt empowered when sitting down to write about something he knew without the tensions of being a 1L.

In terms of leisure, Victor loves sports and is interested in learning about popular sports in the U.S., like American football and baseball. He wants to research these sports and attend the games to get the full experience. Additionally, Victor was a part of a rowing team in Brasília and hopes to row in the Potomac River this summer! Furthermore, Victor loves reading, preferably literature. Some of his favorite authors include Gabriel García Márquez and José Sarmago. Finally, Victor considers himself a pet parent who spends time doing sports together with his husband and their two dogs. He also enjoys dog agility, a sport in which you run and lead your dog through various obstacles.

Parabens Victor! Nós estamos tão orgulhosos de você!

Contact Us!

Questions about events? Ideas for events? Spotlight story submissions?

Contact us at cm16879@psu.edu or bmm5409@psu.edu