

MAY NEWSLETTER

¡Bienvenidos y Despedidas! Welcome & Farewell!

By Carmen M. Lopez

LLSA welcomes all to the second issue of our monthly newsletter! The month of May has been action packed from our first ever attendance of the National Latinx Law Students Association Moot Court Competition, the Taco & Empanada Fiesta social event, to finishing classes, taking final exams, and bidding our beloved 3Ls and LLMs, a much-deserved congratulations! The May newsletter highlights our graduating members by conducting interviews with those who were willing to share a little bit about their experience, and advice they wished to pass on. Below, four 3Ls, Alexis Castillo, Diego Garcia, Branda Loeza, and Nathaly Olivero, and an LLM Gabriela Voloschin share their thoughts.

In addition, the May newsletter would like to express an enormous gratitude to all who were able to attend our Taco & Empanada Fiesta in late April! The Fiesta was our last social event of the year, and a farewell of the 2021-2022 LLSA organization. The LLSA E-Board has enjoyed serving our Penn State Law Latinx community this year, and our new E-Board has begun planning for the next! As we all embark on our summer adventures, we wish everyone the best!

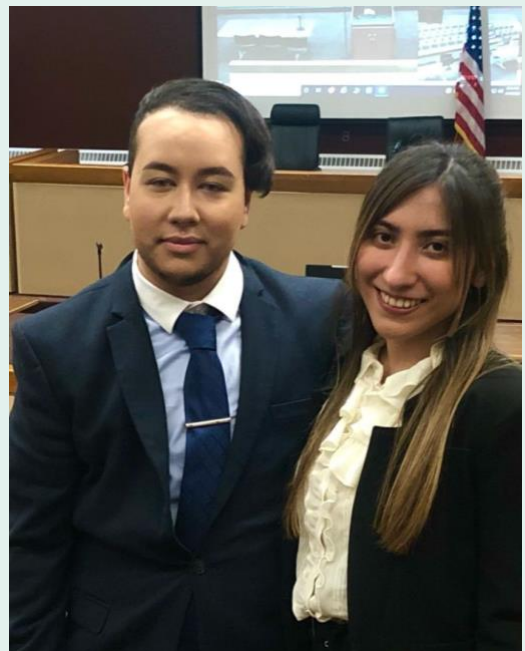
¡Buena Suerte!

14th Annual NLLSA Moot Court Competition

Member Highlight by Carmen M. Lopez

LLSA is proud of two LLSA members, Ileana Polcano Cavazos and Daniel Serrano, for attending and competing in the 14th Annual NLLSA Moot Court Competition! The Competition took place over the course of two days, April 14 and 15, 2022. Together, they made it to the semi-finals with the second highest overall score in the first round!

Ileana and Daniel are the first Penn State Law LLSA Moot Court team to have competed in the NLLSA Moot Court Competition! Despite the lack of experience and familiarity, both did an amazing job and had a fun experience. We are so proud of you both, and hope to send you and other members next year!



Our Taco & Empanada Fiesta!

Thank you to all who attended and supported our last event of the year! Our LLSA Spring Social event had the highest attendance for the 2021-2022 academic year. We plan more for the upcoming semester, so get ready!



The boys are determined to win . . .

A special thank you to Natasha Steinle, LLSA's resident photographer!

Isabella & Imelsis are always ready for a photo op!



LLSA members at the Taco & Empanada Fiesta!



However, the girls appear to be winning!

Denny, Victor, and Kevin deep in conversation.



The gang's all here!

Left to right: Denny, Victor, Rachel, Imelsis, Eden, and Avery.

Sofía & Alejandro are ready to eat!



Alexis Castillo

Member Highlight by Alejandro J. Colón Cedeño

Alexis Castillo, a 3L at Penn State Law, calls El Paso, Texas home. Before arriving at State College to pursue her career at law, she was an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. Now that she is about to graduate, Alexis looks forward to passing the bar exam and already has a job lined up at James R. Rey Attorneys at Law, P.C., a small family law firm in El Paso, Texas.

Alexis's piece of advice to her 1L self is to not compare oneself with others because it stops you in your tracks and makes it easy to get caught up on imposter syndrome—Alexis affirms that “you are where you are because you deserve to be there.” Now, during her last year at law school, Alexis took the time to get closer to people. She sought to solidify those bonds because she knew she is close to leaving and she focused on enjoying the time shared in the company of colleagues.



Diego Garcia

Member Highlight by Sofía Villalobos



Diego, a recent 3L graduate, is from Colorado. Soon, Diego and his wife will be calling Minnesota their new home! Before coming to Penn State Law, Diego was working as a ranch hand near Bozeman, Montana. After law school, he will be heading to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Diego would tell his 1L-self that the next three years will somehow be the shortest and longest years of your life—all at the same time.

This past school year has been very active for Diego. Some of his favorite parts have been getting married, receiving a job opportunity, being inducted into the Woolsack Society, and this June, he will become a dad! Life is starting to take shape for Diego, and he is excited to build a strong family and a career.

Brenda Loeza

Member Highlight by Kevin A. Rodriguez

Brenda was born in Los Angeles, California, but her parents immigrated from Ciudad Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua and Mérida, Yucatán and considers all three places home. Before law school, Brenda took up a job at a boutique immigration firm, and afterward, worked as a legal assistant and paralegal at a small firm where she assisted with divorce proceedings, domestic violence restraining orders, and civil harassment protection orders. Now, Brenda is moving to Los Angeles, California where she have accepted a position with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office.

Thinking back, Brenda had a difficult 1L year—not so much academically, but more to do with the drastic changes that go with moving across the country, to rural Pennsylvania. It was hard to share the sense of community, and it definitely felt isolating being one of very few Latinx at Penn State Law at the time. In that sense, Brenda really admires all the growth LLSA has had this past year. She's excited to see the 2Ls and 1Ls growing the group and creating a stronger sense of community at PSL. If she could give her 1L-self advice, it would be this:

remember why you came to law school and what you set out to do, nothing else really matters in the grand scheme of things. By far the most rewarding law school experiences Brenda has experienced are the various public defender externships and her membership in the Penn State Law Criminal Appellate and Post-Conviction Services Clinic (previously known as the Indigent Criminal Justice Practicum).



Nathaly Olivero

Member Highlight by Sofía Villalobos



Nathaly, a recent 3L graduate, calls San Juan, Puerto Rico home! Before coming to Penn State Law, Nathaly studied Criminal Justice with a concentration in Law and Society at the University of Puerto Rico at Carolina.

She would tell her 1L self that grades are not the most important part of law school. Nathaly's favorite part about this past school year has been taking more time to self-reflect!

Gabriela Voloschin

Member Highlight by Alejandro J. Colón Cedeño

Gabriela Voloschin, a recent LLM graduate, calls both Mendoza, Argentina, and the U.S. home. Before moving to the U.S. with her husband and their dog last April, Gabriela was a practicing attorney in Argentina. In Argentina, she worked for a decade as one of the heads of the contracts and bills protest for a government agency, specializing in high-value contracts and bill appeals, while also having a boutique firm where she did corporate and immigration law. Gabriela also taught public and private international law at the National University of Cuyo, at Mendoza Argentina, for three years.



After graduation, Gabriela plans to take the New York bar exam and pursues a job involving regulatory affairs or government contracts in Washington, D.C. As an LLM, Gabriela's advice towards her 1L self is to be patient and to view the law as a system that should not be divided into subjects, because otherwise, it does not work in practice. Currently, Gabriela's favorite thing about her last year at law school was becoming a student again and experiencing the American college system in contrast with the one in Argentina, now being able to choose her own courses, to spend time in Penn State's beautiful campus, and to meet people from all over the world.

BONUS!

LLSA is proud to announce we have created and adopted a brand new logo! We are excited to present the months of hard work by our Marketing & Outreach Committee with a special thank you to Christian Navas, our resident Video Production Artist!

Get ready LLSA members, because we have merch coming this fall semester!



Contact Us!

Questions? Ideas for events? Spotlight story submissions?

Contact us at cml6879@psu.edu or bbm5409@psu.edu