

## BUSINESS. LAW. LIBRARY!

Encouraged by this year's theme for National Library Week—*Ready. Set. Library!*—and after recently participating in a discussion regarding law librarianship as a career, I reflected on my own road toward this profession. I have never given this topic such careful consideration before, at least not to the extent of presenting it formally to others. Surprisingly, it did not originate in the library, which is why I have titled my article as such! It does feel like a sort of race, with each "lap" or "leg" along the way adding strength and momentum. Perhaps many of you have experienced a similar journey, starting on a path of study that did not originally include librarianship. Today, I am thrilled to realize that I have found my true calling in law librarianship and feel immensely grateful to be exactly where I belong.



I once thought my true calling had to do with business administration (BA). Don't get me wrong: I have certainly needed and used the skills and educational background. After all, I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason. Also, my way through business school was not wasted, and at the time, I strongly opposed the idea of not finishing what I started. Something similar happened with law school, although that experience is more aligned to what I do now. While I felt a strong passion for studying law, enough to pursue my degree diligently, I never pictured myself working in a law firm or similar environment—at least not in the same manner as my classmates and friends envisioned.

It was during that time that I began working as a student in the now century-old Law School Library at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). I became increasingly interested in law librarianship as a career and felt enthusiastic about employing my knowledge in law to the service of others. It was not long after finishing law school—and after securing a job as an assistant librarian—that I applied for a master's in information science at UPR. As they say, the rest is history . . .

As an acquisition's law librarian, I can only share a profound sense of satisfaction when I talk about my job. From the usual administrative, work-behind-a-desk scenario to community engagement and outreach to serving the needs of the law school itself, I have enjoyed every bit of it. Over the years, my colleagues and I have witnessed the ongoing evolution of our profession, especially now with the proliferation of digital resources and the imminent integration of artificial intelligence. I believe there is room for growth, notably regarding local Puerto Rican legal materials and titles (I forgot to mention I am from—and work in—Puerto Rico!) and their availability in electronic formats, but remain positive that we are moving in the right direction.

Outside the Academia, I have been able to connect with other law librarians inside and outside of Puerto Rico, specially through the [AALL's Latinx Caucus](#) and the [AALL Mentor Program](#). I cannot emphasize enough the fundamental role of organizations like AALL in facilitating professional growth, networking, and development of leadership skills through the participation of committees, chapters, and, of course, caucuses. And while I have yet to participate in a [AALL Annual Meeting](#), I already feel the meaningful contributions of being a member in my professional journey.

I realize now that everything that I have studied and learned in college is both useful and fundamental in my day-to-day job. I am sometimes humbled and surprised at how everything turned out, how every piece fits together presently. Two years ago, when I was appointed as associate administrative dean, it underscored the importance of librarians in administrative roles within the law school setting, proving our suitability and value as assets—I see you, BA

I hope my words reassure those uncertain about their professional path, emphasizing that despite the challenges ahead, every stumbling block can be turned into a stepping stone toward discovering a more fulfilling path.

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