



NATIONAL  
LATINA/O  
LAW  
STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION

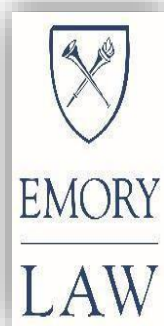
# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Latina/o Law Student Association Conference

Sep 28 - 30, 2017

“Latinidad y Rompiendo  
Barreras”

## PROGRAM

HOSTS:





21<sup>st</sup> Annual NLLSA Conference  
ATLANTA Sep 28-30, 2017



EMORY  
LAW



MERCER  
LAW

We extend our thanks to Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Emory University Law School, Georgia State University College of Law, and Mercer Law School for your generous support of our conference.



## Conference Theme: “Latinidad y Rompiendo Barreras”

The 2017 Conference theme, “**Latinidad y Rompiendo Barreras,**” focuses on the question: **What does it mean to be a Latino/a lawyer in our communities?** In the United States, Latinos make up roughly 18% of the population. Yet, according to the ABA Lawyer Demographics for 2016, only 4% of the 1,315,561 licensed attorneys identify as Latino/a. We intend our conversations to focus, in part, on how to break barriers that face Latina/o law students and lawyers within our communities, personally and professionally. In an increasingly globalized world, NLLSA recognizes that the need for diverse attorneys in the legal field is greater than ever. As Latina/o law students, our unique experiences, diverse cultural backgrounds, and linguistic abilities can provide value to legal organizations, their clients, and throughout the legal profession itself. This year, our national organization will attempt to harness this collective value through a collaborative and educational approach at the National Conference



## SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

**Thursday, September 28th**  
**Georgia State University**  
**College of Law (“GSU”)**  
**85 Park Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30303**

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**7:00 am:** Breakfast & Welcome by NLLSA Attorney General  
and GSU Dean of Academic Affairs, Jessica Gabel  
Cino  
The Atrium, 1<sup>st</sup> Level

**8:00 am:** Moot Court Competition Begins  
Preliminary Round 1

**9:30 am:** Moot Court Competition  
Preliminary Round 2

**12:30 pm:** Lunch  
The Atrium, 1<sup>st</sup> Level

**1:15 pm:** Announcement of top 8 teams to advance

**1:30 pm:** Semifinals

**3:00 pm:** Debrief (Optional)

**Friday, September 29th**  
**Emory University Law School**  
**1301 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30322**

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**8:00 am to 9:30 am:** Moot Court Competition Finals (light breakfast served)  
Court of Appeals of Georgia Courthouse,  
47 Trinity Ave SW # 501, Atlanta, GA  
**(1) The Honorable Stephen Louis A. Dillard,**  
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia  
**(2) The Honorable M. Yvette Miller,**  
Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia  
**(3) TBD**  
Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia

**8:30 am to 10:00 am:** Registration  
Reception Area on the 1st Floor in front of Library (Emory Law)



**10:00 am to 11:00 am:** Conference Introduction and Breakfast

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Hunter Atrium

- Special Kick-off Message to be delivered
- Welcome Remarks: NLLSA Chair, Alex Pena and Atlanta Host Committee
- Featured Speaker: Erica V. Mason, HNBA President and Partner at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP

**11:05 am to 11:45 am:** A Conversation with the United States JAG Corps

*Members of the United States JAG Corps will engage in a discussion over the differences between a career as a civilian attorney and a career as a military JAG officer.*

- Capt. Justina Hooper, Air Force
- Col. Katherine Estes, Marines
- Lt. Jordi Torres, Navy

**12:00 pm to 1:45 pm:** Career Fair & Lunch

**1:45 pm to 2:45 pm:** Conference Panels

**The Latina Partner**

*This panel will focus on the experiences and advice of Latina attorneys as partners in the legal profession.*

- **Erica Mason**, Partner at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP
- **Adria Perez**, Partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
- **Carmen Toledo**, Partner at King & Spalding LLP

**Inequities for Latinos in the Criminal Justice System**

*Panelists will discuss the challenges in the Criminal Justice system from the point of arrest to the prosecution and defense of those who enter the system.*

- **Holly G. Chapman**, Public Defender for Augusta County, GA
- **David Windecher**, Defense Attorney for The Windecher Firm

**The Rise of Latina/o Lawyers  
in In-House Counsel**

*This panel will focus on the challenges, successes, and advice of experienced Latina/o lawyers in in-house counsel positions with corporations or businesses.*

- **Michael Davis Velasco**, Associate General Counsel at Tribune Media Corporation
- **Patricia Marcucci**, Assistant VP & Senior Legal Counsel at AT&T
- **Dan Zambrano**, Lead Counsel for North America at Technicolor SA

**3:00pm to 3:15 pm:** Break and Light Refreshments/Snacks



**3:30pm to 4:30 pm: Conference Panels**

**The Advocate in Immigration Law**

*This panel will focus on a discussion over current immigration policy, identifying crucial areas in need of reform and discussing the critical role that an immigration attorney takes on as an advocate for the immigrant community.*

- **Kira Romero-Kraft**, Asst. Counsel for LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- **Zaira Solano**, Founder and Partner at Solano Law Firm LLP

**The Rise of Latina/o Lawyers  
in Big Law**

*This panel will focus on the challenges, successes, and advice of experienced Latina/o lawyers in big law.*

- **Marx Calderon**, Associate at Nixon Peabody LLP
- **Rebeca Ojeda**, Associate at King & Spalding LLP
- **Courtney Quiros**, Associate at Alston & Bird LLP

**The Impact of Non-Profit Organizations in the Latino Community**

*This panel will focus on the importance of non-profit organizations in the Latino community, especially in areas of immigration and family law.*

- **Tina Fernandez**, Executive Director for Achieve Atlanta, Inc.
- **David Schaefer**, Managing Director of Advocacy at Latin American Association
- **Christina Iturralde**, Supervising Attorney for Pro Bono Programs at Atlanta Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

**5:00 pm to 7:00 pm: Sponsored Cocktail Networking Reception**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Hunter Atrium

*There will be a free shuttle provided from Emory Law back to the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel and/or the Courtyard Atlanta Midtown (which are both around 10 minutes from the Social Event).*

**9:00 pm: Social Event**

Loca Luna Restaurant, 550 Amsterdam Ave NE C,  
Atlanta, GA 30306

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> Atlanta's  
John Marshall Law ("AJMLS")  
1405 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA**

*There will be a free shuttle provided from the Atlanta Marriott Marquis and/or the Courtyard Atlanta Midtown Hotel. The shuttle will leave at 8:15am and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

**8:15am:** Bus leaves Atlanta Marriott Marquis and/or the Courtyard Atlanta Midtown Hotel

**8:30am to 9:30 am:** Check-In & Breakfast Sponsored by US Marine Corps  
Blackburn Conference Center, AJMLS



**9:45am to 10:45 am:** Conference Panel

**Latina/o Trailblazers in Politics**

Blackburn Conference Center

*This panel will discuss the importance of political engagement as the panelists share their experiences and highlight the impact that political leadership has on the Latino community.*

- **Natalia Salgado**, Director of Advocacy for NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman
- **Brenda Lopez**, State Representative for the Georgia House of Representatives (District 99)
- **Antonio Maestas**, Majority Whip for the New Mexico House of Representatives (District 16)
- **Jason Esteves**, Board of Education Member for the City of Atlanta, GA

**11:00am to 11:45 am:** Resistance Lawyering Workshop by the American Constitution Society  
Blackburn Conference Center

- **Kate Azevedo**, American Constitution Society;
- **Fallon Traylor**, American Civil Liberties Union (Georgia)
- **TBD**, National Lawyers Guild (Georgia)

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm:** Lunch  
Blackburn Conference Center

**1:15 pm:** Featured Speaker

**1:45 pm to 3:00 pm:** DACA Service Project with the Latin American Association of Atlanta

**3:00 pm to 3:30 pm:** NLLSA Elections

**3:45pm:** Depart from AJM back to Atlanta Marriott Marquis, the Courtyard Atlanta Midtown Hotel, or other lodging.

**6:30 pm to 10 pm:** NLLSA Banquet and Closing Ceremony  
Southern Exchange at 200 Peachtree, The Augusta Conference Center  
200 Peachtree Street NW #206, Atlanta, GA 30303

**6:30pm:** Cocktail Hour

**7:30pm:** NLLSA Alumni Recognition  
Keynote Speaker

**8:15pm:** Closing Remarks, NLLSA Chair

**8:30pm:** Moot Court Competition Awards, NLLSA Attorney General & Excellence in Leadership Award Presentation by JAG.

**8:45pm:** NLLSA Election Results

**10:00pm:** After-Party Social  
*Havana Club, 3112 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**ALEX PONCE de LEON**



Alex Ponce de Leon is corporate litigation counsel for Google Inc. focusing on discovery issues. At Google he develops and implements innovative and efficient discovery strategies for a wide variety of litigation matters, including, complex litigation, arbitration, patent cases, and internal investigations. He also directs counter-discovery strategies using computer forensics and digital investigations techniques. Alex successfully defends against “discovery-on-discovery” in motion practice. Besides managing his own discovery caseload, he also implements new discovery policies and procedures designed to reduce costs and mitigate legal risk across the company.

Alex was named a "Top 10 30-Something" by the Association of Corporate Counsel in 2015. He was recognized as a 2016 Diversity Leader by the Hispanic National Bar Foundation. Alex is a member of Sedona Conference Working Group 6 on International Electronic Information Management, Discovery and Disclosure.

Prior to joining Google, Alex was a senior litigation counsel at the Intel Corporation where he primarily focused on discovery and general litigation matters. Alex began his legal career as an associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman where he worked on large and complex litigation cases. Before practicing law, Alex was a policy advisor for the California State Legislature and a management consultant for Accenture. He received his BA from Brown University, his MSc from the London School of Economics, and his JD from Northwestern University School of Law.

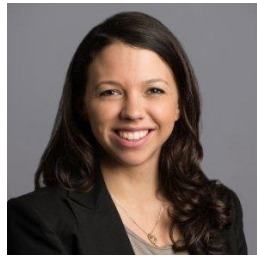




## 2016-17 NLLSA officers



**Alex Peña**  
National Chairperson



**Heather Perez**  
National Vice Chairperson



**Brittany Vazquez-Charles**  
Attorney General



**Vanessa Parras**  
Secretary



**Yamilet Brizuela**  
Treasurer



**Seth Wiggins**  
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**Miranda Hernandez**  
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**Natali Soto**  
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Service



**Jasmine Pedraza**  
Director of Membership



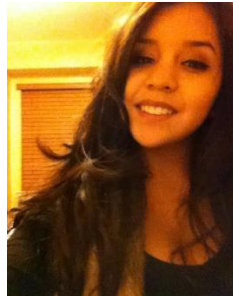
**Albert Maldonado**  
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Public Relations



**Stacey Burke**  
South Atlantic  
Regional Director



**Alejandro Cautli**  
Central Regional  
Director



**Jessica Hernandez**  
Pacific Regional  
Director



**Marcus Hernandez**  
North Atlantic  
Regional Director



**Daniel Natal**  
Mid Atlantic  
Regional Director



## TRANSPORTATION

- The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit, or MARTA, is an affordable way to travel. MARTA offers both bus train service. Standard MARTA fare is \$2.50 for a one-way trip.
- Multi-ride passes are available if you plan on riding MARTA multiple times in one day.
- Fare may be purchased at a MARTA RideStore or via a Breeze Vending Machine. Breeze vending machines are located all across MARTA stations. Breeze Cards are reloadable and reusable. Each Breeze Card costs an additional \$2.00.
- More information is available at <http://www.itsmarta.com>.



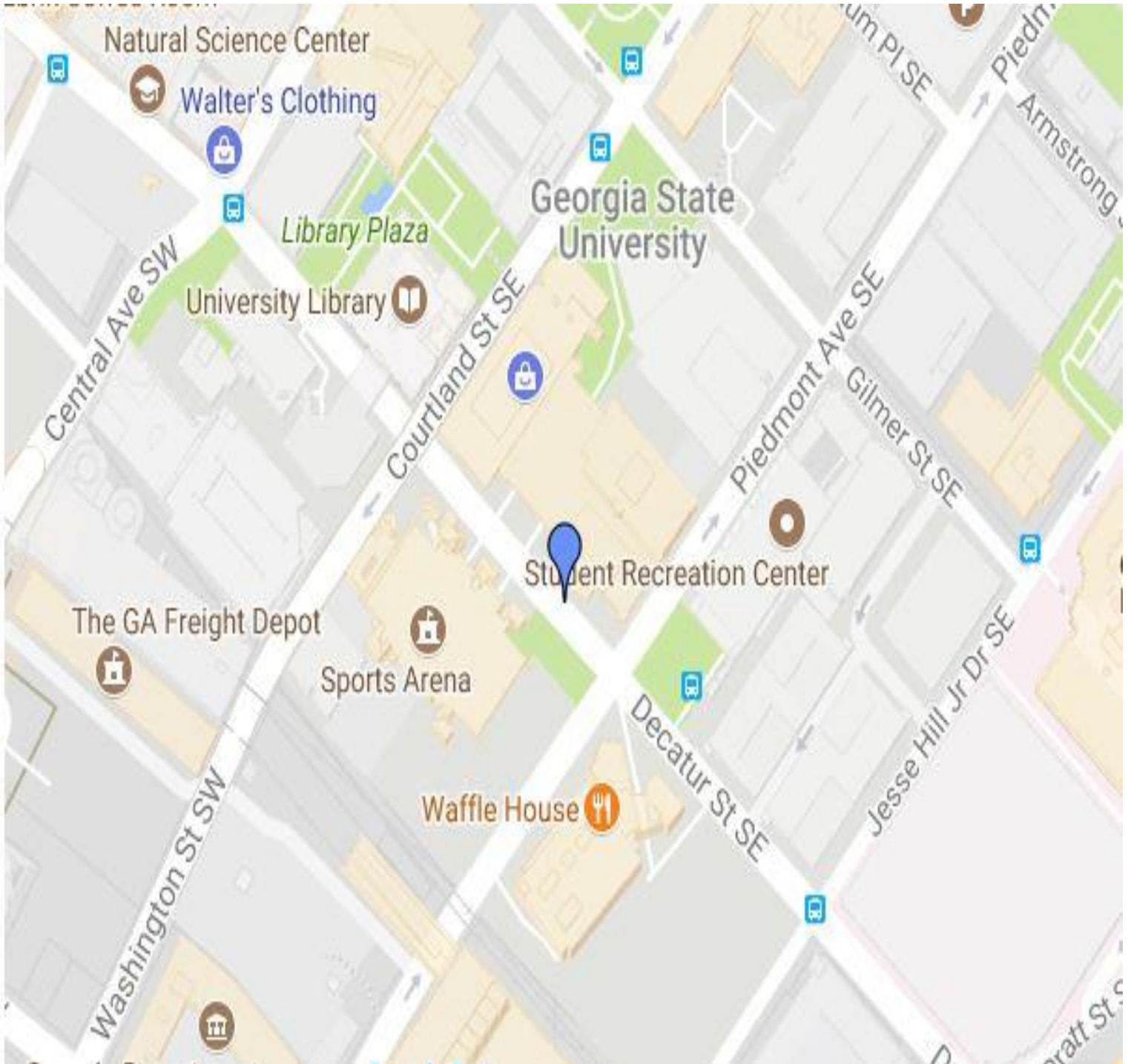
- MARTA to Georgia State University College of Law
  - On the North and South line, travel to the Peachtree Train Station on the North/South rapid rail line. Look for the Ellis Street exit in the station. Go up those escalators then take the Peachtree Street West exit out of the station. Turn right. The college is less than a block from the station at the corner of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue and Park Place, next door to the Georgia-Pacific Center.
- MARTA to Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
  - Take MARTA to the Arts Center Station – exit onto W. Peachtree St. and turn right – walk three blocks and cross the street at 18th St.
- Driving Directions to Emory University School of Law from the Airport
  - Take I-85 North to Clairmont Road, turn right. Travel to North Decatur Road, turn right. Travel to Clifton Road, turn right. Make the first right onto Gambrell Drive. Gambrell Hall will be on the right. Proceed to Lowergate parking.



## MAPS

### Georgia State University College of Law

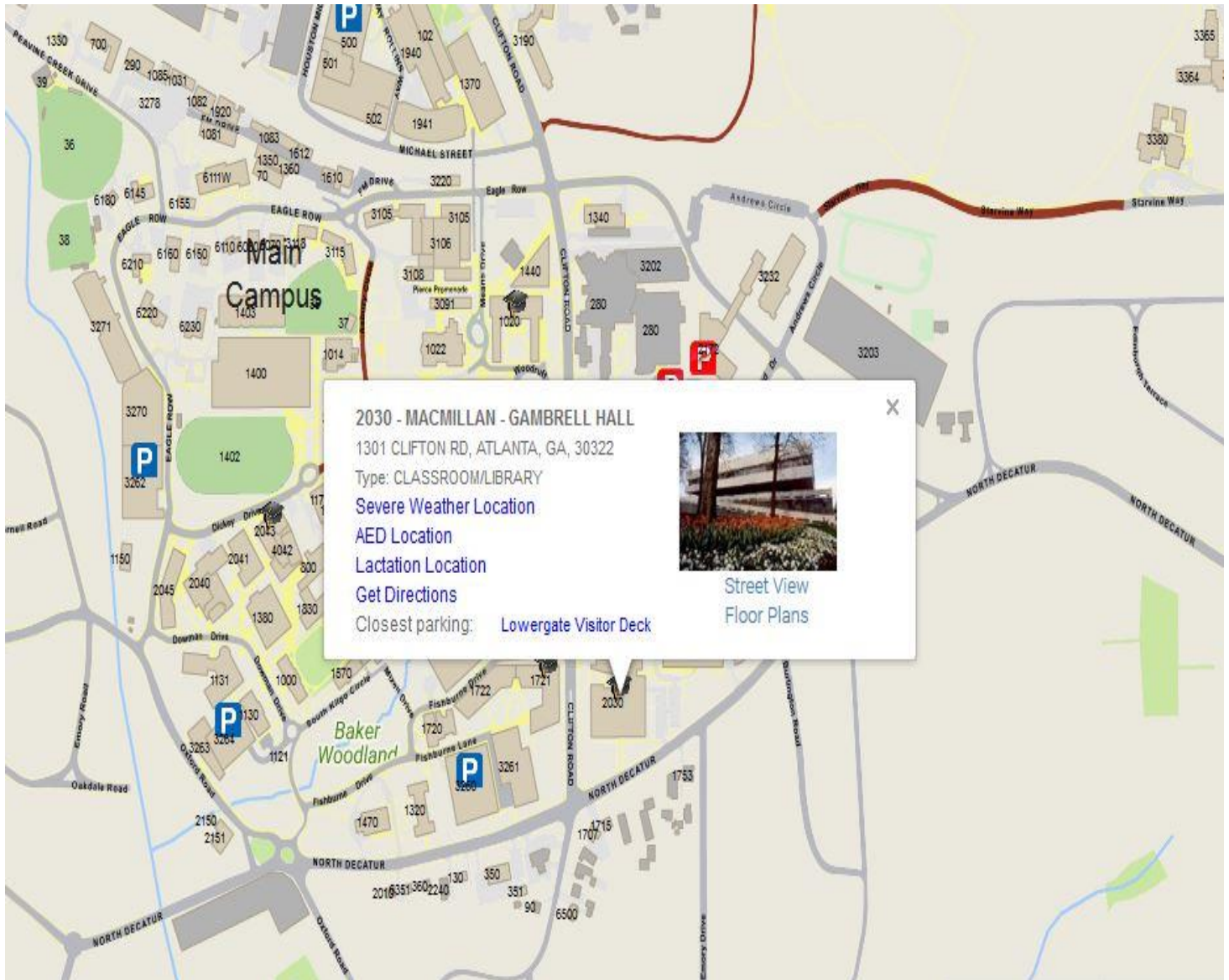
85 Park Pl NE, Atlanta, GA 30303





## Emory University School of Law

1301 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30322

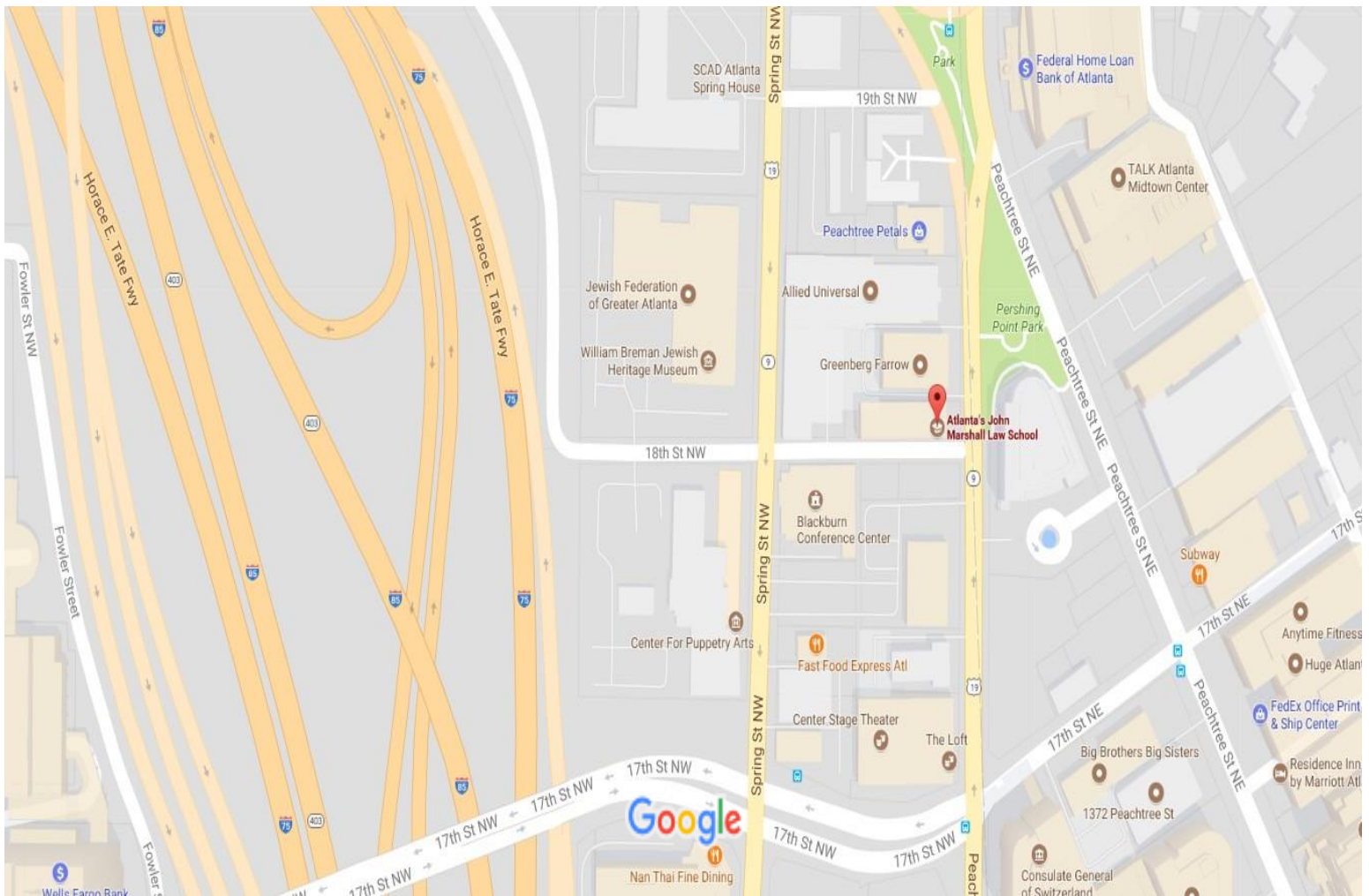




## Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Blackburn Conference Center

1405 Spring St NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

Conveniently situated in Atlanta's thriving Midtown district, the Blackburn Conference Center is at the epicenter of Atlanta business and living. The Blackburn Conference Center is only minutes from Atlantic Station to the west, downtown to the south and Buckhead all with trendy shops and boutiques, the best in Southern cuisine, and easy access to Interstates 20, 75 and 85.





## HOTEL INFORMATION

- **Atlanta Marriott Marquis**
  - 265 Peachtree Center Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
  - 404.521.0000
  - [Room Block Link](#)
  - Cut Off Date (Limited Amount of Rooms): Thursday, 5:00 P.M., September 7, 2017.
  - Block Availability: Any time frame between Thursday, Sept. 28th - Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Courtyard Marriott – Atlanta Midtown/GA Tech**
  - 1132 Techwood Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
  - 404.607.1122
  - [Room Block Link](#)
  - Cut Off Date (Limited Amount of Rooms): Thursday, 5:00 P.M., September 7, 2017.
  - Block Availability: Any time frame between Wednesday, Sept. 27th - Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Artmore Hotel**
  - 1302 West Peachtree Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30309
  - 404.876.6100
  - \*NLLSA Executive Board stayed here during the Atlanta Site Visit back in April.
- **Courtyard - Atlanta/Decatur Downtown**
  - 130 Clairmont Ave, Decatur, GA 30030
  - 404.371.0204
- **Hampton Inn & Suites - Atlanta North Druid Hills**
  - 1975 North Druid Hills Road Atlanta, GA 30329
  - 404.320.6600
- **Hyatt Atlanta Midtown**
  - 125 10th St NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
  - 404.443.1234
- **Homewood Suites by Hilton Atlanta-Midtown**
  - 97 10th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30309
  - 404.524.4076
- **Hilton Garden Inn**
  - 97 10th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30309
  - 404.443.1235





# THE ATLANTA HOST COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR NATIONAL SPONSORS!

## Diamond Sponsor

MISSIONS MAY CHANGE, BUT OUR COMMITMENT NEVER WILL.





21<sup>st</sup> Annual NLLSA Conference  
ATLANTA Sep 28-Sep 30, 2017



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# In Support of Great Causes

PERKINS COIE is proud to sponsor the 21st Annual Latina/o Law Student Association Conference. We commend the NLLSA's focus on advancing Latina/o academic success and its commitment to community service.

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21<sup>st</sup> Annual NLLSA Conference  
ATLANTA Sep 28-Sep 30, 2017



## Community Leader



**Themis**  
Bar Review



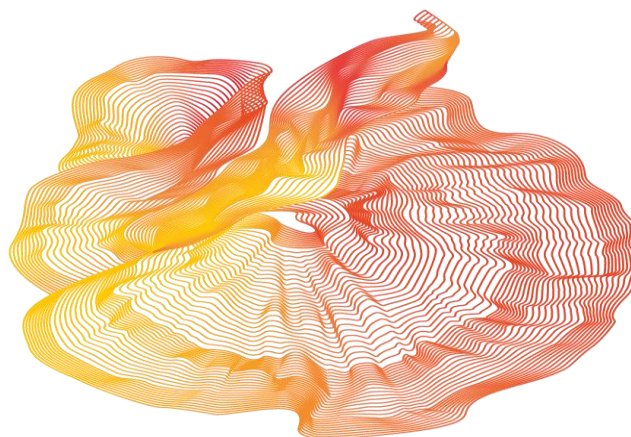
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Latin American  
Association



**MANY THANKS TO THE ATLANTA HOST COMMITTEE FOR  
YOUR DEDICATION IN PLANNING THIS CONFERENCE AND  
YOUR COMMITMENT TO ITS SUCCESS!**

**Atlanta Host Committee  
Chair**

Stacey Burke

**Atlanta Host Committee  
Members**

**Moot Court**

Daniela Villamizar

**Speakers and Panels**

Terence T. Burroughs

**Advertising & Promotion**

Stephanie Ospina

**Special Events**

Stephanie Angel  
Roberto Ocon  
Daniel Brian



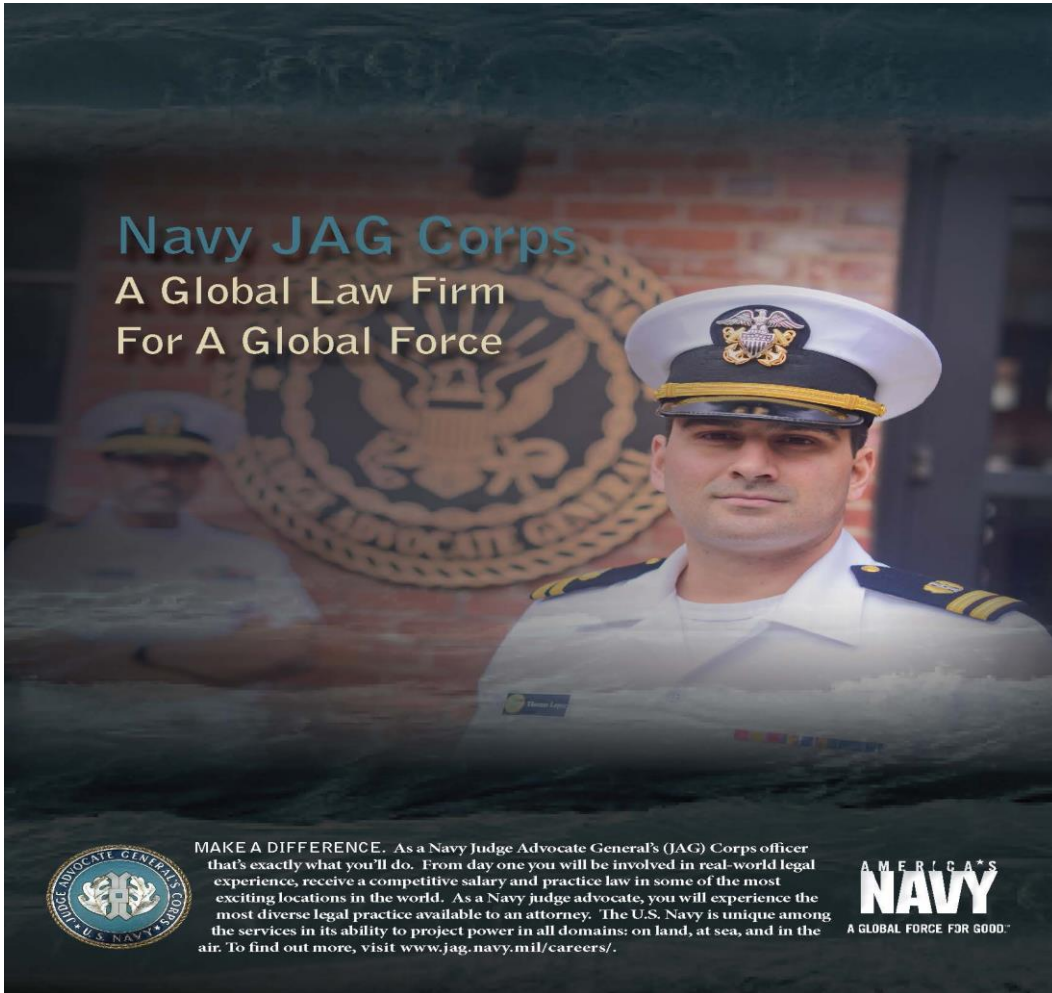
# NOTES



21<sup>st</sup> Annual NLLSA Conference  
ATLANTA Sep 28-Sep 30, 2017



## Navy JAG Corps A Global Law Firm For A Global Force

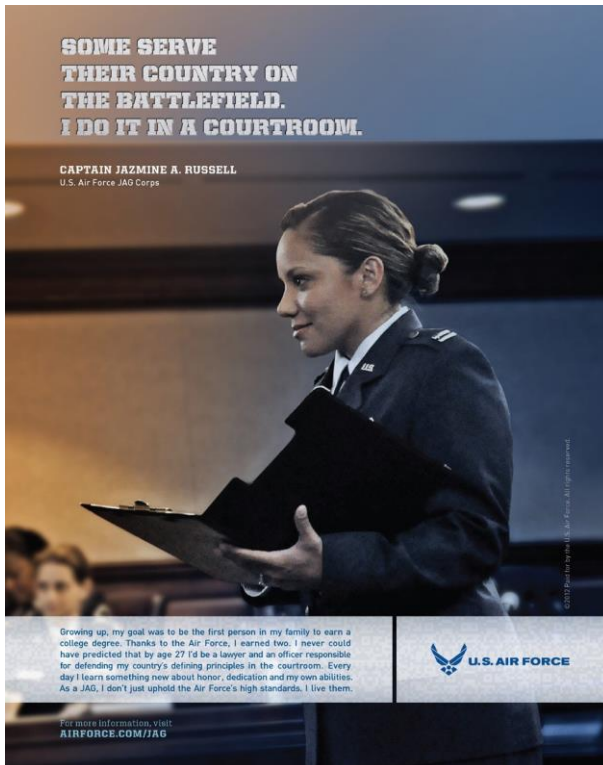


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THEIR COUNTRY ON  
THE BATTLEFIELD.  
I DO IT IN A COURTROOM.**

**CAPTAIN JAZMINE A. RUSSELL**  
U.S. Air Force JAG Corps



Growing up, my goal was to be the first person in my family to earn a college degree. Thanks to the Air Force, I earned two. I never could have predicted that by age 27 I'd be a lawyer and an officer responsible for defending my country's defining principles in the courtroom. Every day I learn something new about honor, dedication and my own abilities. As a JAG, I don't just uphold the Air Force's high standards, I live them.



For more information, visit  
[AIRFORCE.COM/JAG](http://AIRFORCE.COM/JAG)