

“Corruption, Human Rights, and Social Justice”
Advocates International Conference Unites Christian Attorneys
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Upon entering my first year of law school at Regent, I had already envisioned what my first semester would be like. I predicted that during these four months, I would only have the chance to read and brief cases, anticipate professor’s questions in class, eat, sleep, and then repeat. I never had imagined that I would have the opportunity to learn outside of Robertson Hall. My expectations were changed when I found out about the International Law Society’s participation in the 6th Annual Latin American Convention of Christian Lawyers (CLAC Convención Latinoamericana de Abogados Cristianos) on Corruption, Human Rights and Social Justice. The convention was held in the Dominican Republic on October 19-22, 2006.

From my own personal experiences, living in Guatemala for a summer and joining student volunteer groups that aided poor villages in Mexico, I had already observed the plight of the Latin American people who are governed by corrupt institutions. This conference was a major step in equipping lawyers from Central and South America to take action in order to impact their own governments, which have been easily manipulated by the rich and powerful.

Through funding from the International Law Society and Regent Law School, I was able to travel with other Regent students to Santo Domingo for this conference (CLAC) which was sponsored by Advocates International and two Latin American organizations of Christian lawyers. This week-long event, which commenced several days before our arrival, united Latin American lawyers from 18 countries to analyze the common problems of corruption and human rights violations shared in their countries from a Christian worldview and to formulate strategies to fight such social injustices.

The conference offered several methods of instruction and reflection on the connection of law and morality. First, I listened to insightful lectures given by Latin American leaders such as Nina Balmaceda, by speakers from Advocates International and Handong University, namely Sam Ericsson, Latchezar Popov, Lynn Buzzard, Eric Enlow, and by Regent’s own Professor Natt Gantt. Second, I observed several colloquiums in which the convention participants could openly discuss and formulate ideas on topics such as anticorruption efforts, religious freedom, and defense of life and family. Third, I gained personal relationships with lawyers from many different cultures united by a Christian worldview. But most importantly, I grew spiritually in daily prayer/worship services, sermons, and a powerful night of intercession in which we came together before God, praying for the blessing of each country together until the early morning hours.

I was truly blessed to able to attend CLAC which I found to be very educational, thought-provoking, and rewarding both intellectually and spiritually. I was encouraged by passionate lawyers driven to maintain the integrity and morality of the law, not only in Latin America, but in the United States, in Europe, and across the globe. This time of education, analysis, and reflection will prove to be both fruitful in my legal career, personal life, and spiritual relationship with God.