

Al Amado

Policy Development | Advocacy Programs | Higher Education Curriculum | Legal Expertise

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Executive Program Director and Senior Counsel with a long record of professional achievement in legal advocacy education and enabling collaboration between corporations, nonprofit and governmental entities, and educational institutions internationally to develop and manage advocacy programs. Passionate about providing education, training, and resources to increase awareness of causes, build support for legislative and policy changes, and create advocacy networks to support marginalized communities. Offering a unique blend of practical legal expertise and business acumen to develop curriculum and lead educational initiatives

- Bilingual professional with native language fluency in Spanish and English and an extensive legal background in litigation, mediation, arbitration, and conflict resolution
- Passionate thought leader with an aptitude for leading fundraising initiatives and delivering transformative programs that address pervasive social and legal issues impacting the global community
- Founder of the Latin American Collaborative Education Project (LACEP), a non-profit organization committed to developing solutions to conflictive issues in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Consultant with the Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution at the South Texas College of Law in Houston in many capacities, including previously teaching courses on conflict resolution and legal writing, managing cross-cultural conflicts and international business disputes, overseeing policy formulation

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Program Management
- Education & Training
- Global Advocacy Programs

- Strategic Partnerships
- Community Relations
- Cross-Cultural Conflicts

- Policy Development
- Dispute Resolution
- Curriculum Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative Consultant | Houston, TX (Apr 2014-Present)

Jul 2009-Present

Consultant for a public service project of the American Bar Association (ABA) dedicated to promoting Rule of Law around the world to enable long-term solutions to poverty, economic stagnation, and conflict in the global community.

- Work in partnership with the American Bar Association, the National Center for State Courts, and the U.S. State Department
- Serve as an Academic Consultant for the Merida Initiative of the U.S. State Department and various academic institutions to develop Rule of Law programs and lead training activities throughout Latin America
- Build and lead project teams in generating ideas and identifying opportunities, and manage the complete grant proposal process to secure funding

Program Director | Ecuador (Jul 2009-Apr 2014)

Directed in-country programs focused on building collaboration between governments, third parties, and civil society to facilitate conflict resolution and improve the Rule of Law in Ecuador by improving ethics and transparency in the judicial sector.

- Defined program methodologies and developed strategies to assist the judicial operators of Ecuador in seeking more effective and efficient legal processes and systems
- Taught trial advocacy skills to criminal justice sector operators and trained law enforcement officials in the investigation and prosecution of transnational crimes, with a focus on human trafficking, money laundering, and narcotics trafficking
- Supported the development and implementation of drug courts to break the cycle of addiction and delinquency through treatment
- Oversaw program budgets, managed relationships with donors, prepared grant proposals, coordinated all in-country fundraising in correspondence with the ROLI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Latin American Collaborative Education Project (LACEP) | Houston, Texas

May 2007-Present

Founder and Director Emeritus (Jul 2009-Present)

Executive Director (May 2007-Jul 2009)

Founded a non-profit organization dedicated to developing solutions to conflictive issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Build collaborative partnerships between corporations, academicians, nonprofit and governmental entities, indigenous communities, and educational institutions throughout the USA, Latin America, and the Caribbean

- Address divisive issues, notably those related to the environment, land use, culture, and policy formulation, through conferences and education
- Collaborate with the Smithsonian Tropical Rainforest Institute pursuant to a Packard Foundation grant to lead resolution of indigenous conflict in Panama related to deforestation

Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution, South Texas College of Law | Houston, TX
Consultant (May 2007-Nov 2019)

Aug 2004-Nov 2019

Director, International Institute & Latin American Projects (Aug 2004-May 2007)
Adjunct Professor (Aug 2004-May 2007)

Organized conferences, conducted research, and taught courses on conflict resolution and legal writing. Facilitated resolution of maritime disputes and cross-cultural conflicts, oversaw policy formulation, and managed conflict resolution involving sustainable development, water, energy, and agrarian issues.

Mad Dogg Athletics, Inc. / Spinning® | Los Angeles, CA & Houston, TX

Jan 1997-Dec 2001

Director of Latin America

Directed all aspects of Latin America business operations for an international fitness company, including marketing and promotions, sales strategy, and staff leadership. Organized fitness education conferences and events and managed all press interviews and media inquiries.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Mediator, Arbitrator, and Dispute Resolution | Houston, TX
Consultant

Jan 2002-Present

Serve as mediator and arbitrator advising clients on trial presentation and dispute resolution methods in diverse cases.

Earlier experience in Trial and Appellate Law with legal firms in Houston, TX, and Los Angeles, CA

Handled all types of civil and criminal litigation, including plaintiff and defense personal injury, white-collar crime, construction, and commercial matters as well as transactional entertainment matters.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Chair & Founding Board Member • Tony's Place

Serving the needs of LGBTQ youth in the greater Houston area experiencing homelessness

Technical Advisor • Lone Star Justice Alliance

Finding evidenced-based alternatives to incarceration for young adults charged with felony offenses

Member • Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Member • Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), London

Member • Houston International Arbitration Club (HIAC)

Former Chair & Member of Latin American Council • Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council

HONORS & AWARDS

Emory University School of Law International Law Journal, Editor

Hon. Lewis F. Powell Medal for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy

EDUCATION

LL.M. in International Law, Latin American Studies, Conflict Resolution • The University of Texas School of Law • Austin, TX

J.D. • Emory University School of Law • Atlanta, GA

B.B.A. in International Finance and Economics (*with honors*) • The University of Texas • Austin, TX

Completed London International Finance Externship

ADDITIONAL SKILLS & INTERESTS

Music and Film with acting credits in radio, television, theater, and film

Adventure and Exotic Travel

Endurance Athlete: Triathlons, Adventure Racing, and Mountain Climbing up to 20,000 feet without supplemental oxygen