**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title  | Ms |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Maria del Val |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Bolivar Onoro |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | University of Alcala |
| Name/s and details of other presenters |  |
| Title of Proposal  | Connecting Disseration Topics and Reality |
| Summary of Proposal | The participation on the Legal Clinic provides the possibility of developing interest in social related issues, as seen in my case with the right of people living with HIV to private health insurance. In addition, it gives the option to advance the knowledge in certain areas through the development of academic papers and Master’s and Ph.D. Dissertations. Academic works that are highly enriched by the questions lunched by the users. It also means the possibility of people to access to a highly specialized advice without having the need to reveal their identity. |
| Abstract Proposal | The participation on the Legal Clinic provides the possibility of developing interest in social related issues, as seen in my case with the right of people living with HIV to private health insurance. In addition, it gives the option to advance the knowledge in certain areas through the development of academic papers and Master’s and Ph.D. Dissertations. Academic works that are highly enriched by the questions launched by the users. It also gives people the possibility of accessing highly specialized advice without having the need to reveal their identity.The Legal Clinic of my home university is based on the service-learning methodology, method that is applied as follows: questions that imply legal knowledge are launched anonymously by associations and individuals; the questions are assigned to different groups of students who are near the completion of their legal studies; along with the question a mentor is assigned who is responsible for the development of the answer; once an answer is reached the question is sent to the coordinator of the program who returns the question to the original source. Joining the Legal Clinic as a volunteer gives the student the possibility of building its LL.M. dissertation around the questions received. The service receives questions regarding issues on the access to different rights due to medical conditions.In 2014 I was given the opportunity to join the Legal Clinic. At that time, as an LL.M. student the volunteering came with the possibility of building my LL.M. dissertation around the questions received, which were related to the right of People Living with HIV -PLHIV- to private insurance. I finished my LL.M. and I presented my dissertation regarding chronic diseases and insurances. I became so immersed with the topic that I decided first to pursue another LL.M. related to civil liability and afterwards undertaking a Ph.D. Program. Nowadays, I am writing a dissertation on the right of PLHIV to Private Health Insurance and I keep realizing how volunteering in the Legal Clinic enriches my dissertation. For instance, in Spain a major legal modification was passed regarding pre-existing medical conditions and insurance policies. This amendment was read by many as an ultimate solution to the issue, but the reality in the Legal Clinic shows otherwise. As the new amendment bans the possibility of introducing clauses that exclude differentiation on the ground of medical conditions, insurance companies are changing their policies. In fact, I would not be aware of it, were it not for my participation as a volunteer in the Legal Clinic. Therefore, there is a twofold objective: firstly, to show how this volunteering has awoken my interest in conducting my research in social areas and secondly, to explain how the questions received enrich my dissertation. I hope this dissertation will help people in the future. I will use the pechakucha format to provide these insights from the field. |