

Audio Transcript, Latino Law Students Association

Welcome to the sponsored stop of the Latino Law Students Association. My name is David Temprano and I'm the president of LLSA.

In a visual homage to the poem "Llor del Espacio" by Francisco Matos Paoli, the painting before you, "Llor II", created by Puerto Rican artist Emmanuel Torres, is a testament to a rich tapestry of Latino culture, weaving together a celebration of life's boundless spirit, the profound depths of history and heritage.

It emphasizes how societal pressures often confine us within our bodily limits, how deconstructing our human form is a metaphor to achieve freedom. The title "Llor" is a Spanish term for celebration or praise, perfectly encapsulating the essence of the painting.

That no constraint, whether it be physical, mental or spiritual, can overcome the pride and joy of the Latino community, our community. And as a community, our creativity is brimming just like the confluence of abstract shapes and colors in the art before you.

The unfettered flow of creativity dances across the canvas, suggesting a movement and a serene dynamism that is simultaneously chaotic as it is harmonious.

The Latino Law Student Association, otherwise regarded as LLSA at Northwestern School of Law, selected this artwork due to the power and resonance of its cultural elements: vibrancy and complexity, sadness and struggle, celebration and joy. Experiences that those that make this organization as great as it is, intimately understand.

There's something beautiful and unique about not only finding patterns in the chaos but aspiring to make matters better. Our pride and sacrifice work in tandem to bring forth change and dismantle barriers, allowing us to grow and reach higher echelons of power for that of our future family, ancestors, and community. It's too important to forgo. The Latino Law Student Association and its members are a testament to this opportunity.

And so is our culture. Having had the privilege this past year to lead this organization, we had several memorable events. We had LLSAxBLSA, a tradition between the Latino Law Student Association and Black Law Student Association, numerous panels and events, a visit from our wonderful faculty advisor Monica Llorente, and student mentorship.

My favorite, though, was the Día de Los Muertos event, otherwise regarded as the day of the dead. During Hispanic Heritage Month, this traditional Latin American holiday is a period of time where families honor the deceased with the belief that for a short period, that souls of our loved ones return to the world of the living to feast, drink, dance and play music.

Similar to the burst of color and interpretive meaning in Loor II, Día de Los Muertos decorates areas with colorful papel picado, pan de meurtos, calaveras, and ofrendas that capture how the boundary between life and the acceptance of death is traversed and enjoy structures of the spirit.

For students considering joining the organization, I highly recommend them to. LLSA offers a platform for not only connecting with big law firms public interest initiatives, that of the Northwestern Law community, but also for discovering one's heritage and self. Your participation will only add to an already vibrant community that celebrates and preserves rich cultural integrity and traditions.

Thank you for taking the time to stop by.

Before navigating to core tour stop number nine, consider stopping to visit the sponsored stops at the Veteran Law Society, beginning in Levy Mayer's Wigmore Room.

To reach the next stop on the core tour, make your way towards Strawn Hall in the southwest corner of the McCormick building. Please do not enter the classroom if the monitor outside is red, that indicates that class is in session. If the monitors is green, you may proceed into the classroom.