



Thursday, November 16th, 2023

SANTO DOMINGO. The Constitutional Court (TC) of the Dominican Republic held a colloquium in honor of Dr. Juan Manuel Pellerano Gómez, founding partner of Pellerano & Herrera, aimed at paying posthumous tribute to the individual recognized as the most accomplished lawyer in the Dominican Republic. Three jurists addressed various topics during the event.

In his welcoming address, the Constitutional Court's president, Milton Ray Guevara stated Juan Manuel Pellerano Gómez's memory preserves the courage that distinguished him as he "dared to address politically and socially significant issues like no one else of his time." He added that "everyone who knew Pellerano Gómez agrees he was an exceptional human being and a consummate legal professional whose contributions are documented in works that are essential references for both students and legal professionals".

He also highlighted the jurist's efforts in educating students, lawyers, judges, and members of the Public Ministry, along with his contributions to the development of constitutional thinking as a means of curbing state arbitrariness. The colloquium featured the participation of Rodolfo Piza Rocafort, jurist and former Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica; Magistrate Jorge Subero Isa, former president of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Dominican Republic; and Eduardo Jorge Prats, constitutional law professor at PUCMM, who addressed various topics. Julio José Rojas Báez, emeritus secretary of the Constitutional Court, served as the moderator.

Similarly, the academic vice-rector of PUCMM, Professor Julio Ferreira, offered welcoming remarks highlighting the qualities of Juan Manuel Pellerano Gómez, describing him as a brilliant lawyer and an excellent educator whose example of integrity and passion for justice should be followed.

Rodolfo Piza Rocafort

Rodolfo Piza Rocafort, jurist and former Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica, discussed on "Democracy, Rule of Law, and Constitutional Justice," emphasizing Dr. Pellerano Gómez's contributions to private, procedural, constitutional, and political law, as well as democracy and law. He remembered the honoree as a great jurist who defined the Constitution as "a set of rules that structure power in the modern state by instituting rulers, determining their respective powers and competencies, while also recognizing the rights of individuals".

In his presentation, the Costa Rican jurist referred to the importance of advocating for democracy, stating that "democracies have achieved higher levels of coexistence, and even economic, social, and environmental development than authoritarian models, and if only for that reason, they have done so in peace and freedom".

Jorge Subero Isa

Former President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Dominican Republic (SCJ), Magistrate Jorge Subero Isa, lectured on "The Constitutionalization of Civil Liability in the Dominican Republic: The presumption of the Guardian of the Inanimate Object as an Example," expressing gratitude to the Constitutional Court for allowing him to participate in the tribute to his unforgettable friend. He recalled



that, during the inauguration of the School of Magistracy, he referred to Dr. Pellerano Gómez as "the most complete Dominican lawyer of that time."

Subero Isa clarified that within the concept of constitutionalization of civil liability, one must understand all the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the country and the block of binding judgments issued by the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Justice.

He emphasized that civil liability has evolved, and the focus should be on finding a responsible party to compensate for the damage, rather than assigning blame. "Achieving this goal is finding the foundation of civil liability in an era of robotics, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, nanotechnology, smart highways, and automated vehicles."

Eduardo Jorge Prats

Eduardo Jorge Prats, constitutional law professor at PUCMM, one of the leading universities in the Dominican Republic, shared aspects of the honoree's life with his topic "Pellerano Gómez: Propeller of the New Dominican Constitutionalism", expressing his honor for being invited to remember one of the pillars of what is now known as the social and democratic rule of law.

He highlighted that Pellerano Gómez's thinking remains relevant and asserted and that the jurist discovered and regulated the amparo action and implicit rights, introducing us to the Constitution as a norm. Jorge Prats described Pellerano Gómez as a generous and enthusiastic man and jurist with a youthful spirit who knew how to work as a team. "He was a keen observer of the Dominican political-historical reality."

He also emphasized the excellent editorial work Pellerano Gómez carried out, including essays on Constitution and politics, "where he anticipated what is now known as the regulatory authority of regulatory agencies".

Magistrates of the Constitutional Court, members of the legal community, and family members of Juan Manuel Pellerano Gómez attended this colloquium held in posthumous tribute to the distinguished jurist, founder of the prestigious law firm Pellerano & Herrera, the first director of the National School of the Judiciary, and concurrently the director of the National School of the Public Ministry.

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