

en years after graduating from the University of Miami's real property LL.M. program, NATIC agent Anthony De Yurre says he still uses lessons he learned from the one-year accelerated, high-level course work. Designed both for recent law graduates and lawyers who are seeking to deepen their understanding and mastery of real estate law, the school's Robert Traurig-Greenberg Traurig Real Property Development LL.M. offers a wide range of courses taught by a faculty of practitioners from around the country who are experts in their fields.

"Law school really doesn't prepare you for the actual practice of law. You have to learn on the job," said De Yurre, an attorney with Miami-based Bilzin Sumberg. "The LL.M. program hires faculty who are on-the-job experts who give you real-world experience. When you graduate from the LL.M. program, you are ahead of J.D. graduates and on par with practicing attorneys. You basically picked up two or three years of practical experience."

A land use development attorney representing developers in southern Florida, De Yurre has been practicing law for nearly 13 years. He returned to the University of Miami last year as an adjunct professor, teaching problem solving in mixed-use real estate development, a two-credit hour class in the school's LL.M. program. He teaches the course with Betsy McCoy, general counsel for The Related Group, one of the country's largest real estate conglomerates, and Amir Isaiah, of Genovese Joblove and Battista, P.A. Like others who've graduated from the program, De Yurre said he gained practical, high-end exposure and experience to issues attorneys face daily in their real estate law practices, and he continues with that approach in the course he currently teaches.

"Betsy gives the in-house counsel perspective, I give the private counsel perspective and Amir gives the perspective of what happens when the development goes off-track. We're giving real-world – not in a vacuum – scenarios of how these developments are created and completed," he said.

Mixed-use development is the most complicated form of land development. Many times, a real estate attorney is working with multiple developers or owners, government officials and multiple property dealings within a condensed area. At one site, a real estate practitioner could be handling any combination of retail shops, office buildings, transit hubs, municipal property, parking, hotels, condominiums and rental property, among others. De Yurre's class offers a hands-on perspective of how to identify, address and resolve the numerous issues and disputes that may arise in these types of large scale projects.

Much of the faculty for the real property LL.M. program consists of adjunct professors like De Yurre, who bring to the class instruction based on what they do in their respective jobs.

"Program professors teach you how to counsel the project from cradle to exit, what issues come up and things you need to address, as opposed to just learning the text of the law. You learn your 101 in law school, but here they're teaching you a very advanced course on the law and how to actually put it into practice," De Yurre said.

NATIC is now collaborating with the University of Miami School of Law, providing a unique educational benefit to its lawyer agents and approved attorneys through the school's real property

LL.M program. For more on how you can take advantage of this opportunity, contact NATIC or visit law.miami.edu/academics/llm and click on "Real Property Development."

"The LLM greatly accelerates an attorney's skillset by working directly with some of the best senior partners at the best firms. That's the way I approach it – always with the goal of accelerating the student's experience level," De Yurre commented.



Anthony De Yurre