

Manuel Jesús Brenes Flores

Doctoral Researcher in Private International Law

Ph.D. expected: March 2026

Academic affiliation: Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (Spain)

Current Research Stay: Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne (Switzerland)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-3934-8994>

Email: mjbreflo@alu.upo.es — mjbf.iuris@icloud.com

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/manueljbren](https://www.linkedin.com/in/manueljbren)

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Researcher in Private International Law specialising in European Union law and comparative succession systems. Focused on doctrinal and practical approaches to legislative and case-law developments across Spain, Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. Current work explores the interdisciplinary circulation of succession mechanisms in cross-border contexts within the EU, with a view to proposing a new model for European succession law.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Private International Law

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (Spain)

*** Thesis to be submitted by March 2026**

Doctoral research focused on the legal framework and comparative analysis of succession agreements in Europe, with special attention to Spain, Italy, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. Currently in the final stage of writing.

Supervisors: Dr. Andrés Rodríguez Benot and Dr. Juan Pablo Pérez Velázquez.

LL.M. in European Union Law

UNED - Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Spain) - 2024

Specialisation in the EU legal order, judicial cooperation, and the role of European institutions in private international law.

LL.M. in International Family Law and Succession

UNIR - Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (Spain) - 2023

Focused on personal and patrimonial aspects of family relationships in Spanish and comparative law.

LL.M. in Legal Practice (Bar Admission)

UNIR - Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (Spain) - (2021)

Preparation for the Spanish bar exam and training in litigation and procedural practice.

LL.B. in Law

Universidad de Sevilla (Spain) - (2020)

Completed additional specialisation in Civil Law and Family Law.

Diploma in Family and Succession Law

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (Spain)

Focus on marital property regimes and succession systems.

Executive Diploma in Cybersecurity

Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (Spain) - (2022)

Training in digital risk, cybersecurity and AI-based legal issues.

University Expert in Trial Litigation Techniques

Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (Spain) - (2019)

Practical oral advocacy and procedural training. Taught by Óscar Fernández León.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher in Private International Law

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (Spain) - 2021 - Present

Doctoral thesis on the comparative analysis of succession agreements in Spain, Italy, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

Doctoral Visiting Researcher

Università di Foggia (Italy) - 2025 Sept - Feb 2026

Research stay focused on Italian materials in the field of succession law and private international law (patti successori) and comparative European approaches.

*** Funded by Erasmus+ Mobility Programme (EU).**

Supervisor: Dr. Carlos Vidal Prado, Dr. Annichino Pasquale and Dr. Valentina Cuocci.

Doctoral Visiting Researcher

Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne (Switzerland) - 2025 Jun - Sept 2025

Research stay focused on comparative aspects of succession law under European private international law frameworks.

Supervisor: Dr. Ilaria Pretelli.

Research Collaborator

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (Spain) - 2023 - 2024

Academic support and collaboration in postgraduate programs. Participation in internal research seminars and doctoral activities.

* **Funded by Doctoral School Programme of Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville.**

PUBLICATIONS (AND PREPRINTS)

– “*A New Model Approach to European Succession Law*” (manuscript in preparation). Proposes a general model for the integration of succession law in Europe through a new regulatory framework. Target journal: *European Law Journal*. Expected submission: July 2025.

– “*Critical Reflections on EU Regulation 650/2012: Legal Fragmentation and the Case for Reform*” (in preparation). Analyzes normative challenges and proposes reform from the perspective of the new approach developed in the PhD thesis. Intended for submission to the *European Journal of International Law*.

– “*Can European Law Harmonize Forced Heirship? A Comparative Historical Perspective*” (in preparation). Examines the feasibility of harmonizing forced heirship in Europe by confronting civil law traditions (Spain, Italy, France) with common law and Nordic systems. Intended for *Revista de Derecho Comunitario Europeo*.

* Full list on request.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

– “Digitalisation of Succession Law in the EU: Towards Digital Succession Agreements and Their Impact on the European Legal Framework”

Paper presented at the **10th International Congress on the European Union**, Brussels (Belgium), 18-20 November 2024.

– “The evolution of Regulation (EU) 650/2012 in its ten-year review: a reflection from notarial practice and experience compared”

Paper presented at the **IV Jornadas Internacionales de Jóvenes Investigadores INNOVA 2025**, Salamanca (Spain), 25-26 September 2025.

– “Twenty years of equal marriage in Spain: A model for Europe? Challenges and contrasts”

Paper presented at the **11th International Congress on the European Union**, Brussels (Belgium), 17-19 November 2025.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOGNITIONS

Academic Excellence Scholarship — Universidad Internacional de La Rioja – *Full scholarship awarded for outstanding academic performance during the Master’s Degree in Family and Succession Law.*

Honours Distinction — Universidad de Sevilla – *Awarded highest grade (9.1/10) in Social Security Law during graduate studies.*

Erasmus+ Mobility Grant — European Union – *Funding for a short-term research stay at the University of Foggia (Italy), 2025 Sept - Dec 2026.*

Legal Clinic Participant — Universidad Internacional de La Rioja – *Completed the Legal Clinic in Labour and Social Security Law with top marks (10/10 in Microconsultations module).*

Finalist — Legal Entrepreneurship Lab, Mutualidad de la Abogacía (2021-2022) – *Recognised for legal project development and innovative practice design.*

Ambassador in Chile and Argentina — Fundación Atarazanas (2013) – *Selected to represent Spain in international cultural and academic exchange.*

LANGUAGES

- **Spanish:** Native
- **English:** Cambridge CAE 2018: C1 (194/210); Legal English Certificate
- **French:** A2 (basic reading and research skills)
- **Catalan / German:** Basic (A1-A2) (non-certified)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Legal, academic and production software: Zotero, Mendeley, LaTeX, MS Word/Excel, Canva, Westlaw, EUR-Lex, REDI

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, **AEFA** – Spanish Association of Family Lawyers

REFERENCES

- Prof. Dr. Elena Isabel Cara Fuentes - Universidad de Almería (Spain) - elena7@ual.es
- Prof. Dr. Andrés Rodríguez Benot - Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Spain) - arodben@upo.es
- Prof. Dr. Ilaria Pretelli - ISDC (Switzerland) - ilaria.pretelli@isdc-dfjp.unil.ch

* Additional references available upon request.