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Status of This Document

This document defines the ADAC Specification for version 0.9.0-draft.1.

Status: Draft This profile is functionally complete but has not yet undergone jurisdictional legal review. It is released for evaluation, testing, and community feedback. Breaking changes may occur before the 1.0.0 legal-stable release.

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Revision History

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ADAC-Legal-US-PR v0.9.0 — Puerto Rico Jurisdiction Profile

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Status

This document is maintained by InnoVadens, LLC as the official steward of the ADAC Standard.

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This specification defines metadata structures for representing legal documents and their provenance. It does not provide legal advice, does not interpret law, and does not establish legal authority. Users should consult qualified legal professionals for legal guidance.

Version: v0.9.0

Status: Draft

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Parent Profile: [ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1 — United States Jurisdiction Profile](#)

Abstract

The **ADAC-Legal-US-PR** jurisdiction profile extends the [ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1](#) profile with terminology, well-known value sets, and field guidance specific to the legal system of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (*Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico*). Puerto Rico's private law is

rooted in the Spanish civil law tradition, operates as a bilingual (Spanish/English) legal system, and has a court structure and procedural framework distinct from both the U.S. federal courts and the 50 state court systems.

This specification is a **companion document** to ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1. Containers using this jurisdiction profile still use `metadata/profiles/legal.json` with `profileType: "legal"` and `jurisdictionProfile: "us-pr"`.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Problem Statement

Puerto Rico's legal system presents unique characteristics that neither the base ADAC-Legal specification nor the ADAC-Legal-US profile can fully capture:

- **Civil law tradition** — Puerto Rico's private law derives from the Spanish Civil Code (*Código Civil*), enacted in 1889 and substantially revised in 2020. Property, obligations, successions, and family law follow civil law principles, not common law. The legal concepts, document types, and procedural terminology differ fundamentally from all 50 states except Louisiana.
- **Bilingual legal system** — Court proceedings, legal documents, and official records are primarily in Spanish, though English translations are routinely produced for federal court proceedings and cross-border matters. Document types, court names, and legal terms have authoritative Spanish-language forms.

- **Distinct court structure** — The *Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico* (Supreme Court), *Tribunal de Apelaciones* (Court of Appeals), and *Tribunal de Primera Instancia* (Court of First Instance) use Spanish-language names and follow procedural rules derived from the Spanish tradition rather than from English common law.
- **Territorial status** — Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, not a state. This creates unique jurisdictional questions: Puerto Rico has its own civil code, criminal code, and rules of procedure, but federal courts (U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico) apply both federal law and Puerto Rico law.
- **Distinct document types** — *Escrituras públicas* (public deeds), *testamentos abiertos* (open wills), *demandas* (complaints), and other Spanish-derived instruments have no direct English-language equivalent in U.S. common law.
- **Notarial system** — Like Louisiana, Puerto Rico notaries (*notarios*) have quasi-judicial powers derived from the Spanish notarial tradition. They execute *escrituras públicas* (public deeds) that constitute authentic instruments.

1.2 Solution

ADAC-Legal-US-PR addresses these needs by defining:

- Additional well-known values for document types, matter types, custody actions, and redaction reasons specific to Puerto Rico civil law practice, provided in both Spanish and English.
- Bilingual terminology reference mapping Spanish legal terms to their English equivalents and noting where no equivalent exists.
- Field guidance for populating case references using Puerto Rico conventions (Spanish-language court names, case numbering formats, *municipio*-based jurisdiction).
- A reference model for the Puerto Rico court hierarchy.

1.3 Scope

This specification defines:

- The "us-pr" jurisdiction profile identifier and its scope
- Puerto Rico-specific additions to ADAC-Legal well-known value sets
- Bilingual terminology cross-reference (Spanish ↔ English)
- Guidance on populating base fields for Puerto Rico practice
- A reference model for the Puerto Rico court hierarchy

This specification does **not** define:

- The ADAC core container format (see [ADAC 1.0](#))
- The base ADAC-Legal profile schema (see [ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1](#))
- The base U.S. jurisdiction profile (see [ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1](#))
- Application-level APIs, user interfaces, or enforcement mechanisms

1.4 Audience

This specification is intended for:

- Software developers implementing Puerto Rico legal document management
 - Legal technologists at Puerto Rico law firms and U.S. firms with Puerto Rico practice
 - Genealogy researchers working with Puerto Rico civil registry records (*Registro Demográfico*), notarial protocols, and court archives
 - Archivists preserving Puerto Rico court records, notarial archives, and property registry documents
-

2. Conformance

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#).







2.1 Jurisdiction Profile Conformance

An ADAC-Legal container conforms to this jurisdiction profile when:

1. It conforms to ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1 (valid ADAC container with `profileType: "legal"`).
2. It conforms to ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1 (all US-level requirements).
3. The `jurisdictionProfile` field in `legal.json` is set to `"us-pr"`.
4. The `jurisdiction.country` field, when populated, is `"US"`.
5. The `jurisdiction.state` field, when populated, is `"Puerto Rico"`.

2.2 Additive Inheritance

This specification follows the additive inheritance model defined in ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1 §7.3:

-  Adds Puerto Rico-specific well-known values to existing value sets
-  Provides Puerto Rico-specific guidance on populating base fields
-  Defines Puerto Rico-specific concepts and bilingual terminology
-  Does NOT remove or redefine any base ADAC-Legal or ADAC-Legal-US fields or values
-  Does NOT modify the ADAC-Legal JSON schema
-  Does NOT modify the ADAC core specification

All base ADAC-Legal and ADAC-Legal-US well-known values remain valid and available in Puerto Rico containers.

2.3 Forward Compatibility

Readers MUST tolerate unknown JSON properties in all structures, consistent with ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1 §6.3. Puerto Rico–specific values that appear in well-known value set fields are ordinary strings — applications that do not recognize them MUST preserve them during round-trip serialization.

2.4 Language Convention

Well-known value identifiers in this specification use English-language camelCase strings for consistency with the ADAC ecosystem. The authoritative Spanish-language terms are provided in descriptions and in the bilingual terminology table (§3.2) for reference and display purposes.

3. Terminology

3.1 Puerto Rico–Specific Terms

Term	Spanish	Definition
Tribunal Supremo	<i>Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico</i>	The Supreme Court of Puerto Rico — the highest court in the Commonwealth.
Tribunal de Apelaciones	<i>Tribunal de Apelaciones de Puerto Rico</i>	The Court of Appeals of Puerto Rico — the intermediate appellate court.
Tribunal de Primera Instancia	<i>Tribunal de Primera Instancia</i>	The Court of First Instance — the trial court of general jurisdiction, organized into 13 judicial regions.
Escritura Pública	<i>escritura pública</i>	A public deed — a document executed before a notary (<i>notario</i>) constituting an authentic instrument with full evidentiary force. Analogous to Louisiana's authentic act.
Notario	<i>notario</i>	A Puerto Rico notary — a licensed attorney with quasi-judicial authority to execute <i>escrituras públicas</i> , authenticate documents, and perform legal transactions. Follows the Spanish notarial tradition.
Protocolo Notarial	<i>protocolo notarial</i>	The notarial protocol — the bound volume of original <i>escrituras públicas</i> maintained by the notary and eventually deposited with the court archives.
Demanda	<i>demanda</i>	A complaint or civil action — the initial pleading commencing litigation.

Term	Spanish	Definition
Contestación	<i>contestación</i>	An answer to a complaint.
Sentencia	<i>sentencia</i>	A judgment or court decision.
Testamento Abierto	<i>testamento abierto</i>	An open will — executed before a notary and witnesses. Equivalent to a notarial will.
Testamento Cerrado	<i>testamento cerrado</i>	A closed (sealed) will — presented to a notary in a sealed envelope. Analogous to Louisiana's mystic testament.
Testamento Ológrafo	<i>testamento ológrafo</i>	A holographic (handwritten) will — entirely in the testator's handwriting, dated, and signed.
Legítima	<i>legítima</i>	The forced share — the portion of the estate reserved for forced heirs (<i>herederos forzosos</i>) under Puerto Rico's forced heirship rules. Similar to Louisiana's forced heirship.
Municipio	<i>municipio</i>	Municipality — Puerto Rico's primary administrative subdivision. There are 78 <i>municipios</i> . Puerto Rico does not have counties or parishes.
Registro de la Propiedad	<i>Registro de la Propiedad</i>	The Property Registry — the government office where real property transactions are recorded. Maintained by the Department of Justice.
Registro Demográfico	<i>Registro Demográfico</i>	The Demographic Registry — the vital records office for Puerto Rico (births, deaths, marriages).
Reconvención	<i>reconvención</i>	A counterclaim — equivalent to Louisiana's reconventional demand.
Cédula de Citación	<i>cédula de citación</i>	A summons — court-issued document directing a party to appear.

3.2 Bilingual Terminology Cross-Reference

This table maps Puerto Rico Spanish-language legal terms to their English equivalents for cross-jurisdiction interoperability:

Spanish Term	English Equivalent	Common Law Equivalent	Notes
<i>Demanda</i>	Complaint	Complaint	Initial pleading
<i>Contestación</i>	Answer	Answer	Responsive pleading
<i>Reconvención</i>	Counterclaim	Counterclaim	Cross-claim by defendant

Spanish Term	English Equivalent	Common Law Equivalent	Notes
<i>Sentencia</i>	Judgment	Judgment	Court decision
<i>Escritura pública</i>	Public deed	—	No common law equivalent; closest is notarized deed with evidentiary presumption
<i>Testamento abierto</i>	Open will / Notarial will	—	Will executed before notary and witnesses
<i>Testamento cerrado</i>	Closed will / Sealed will	—	Sealed will presented to notary
<i>Testamento ológrafo</i>	Holographic will	Holographic will	Handwritten will
<i>Legítima</i>	Forced share	—	Forced heirship portion; no common law equivalent
<i>Herederos forzosos</i>	Forced heirs	—	Heirs entitled to the <i>legítima</i>
<i>Sucesión</i>	Succession	Probate	Estate administration
<i>Notario</i>	Notary	Notary public	Puerto Rico notaries have far greater authority
<i>Protocolo notarial</i>	Notarial protocol	—	Bound volume of original deeds
<i>Municipio</i>	Municipality	County (loosely)	Administrative subdivision
<i>Bienes gananciales</i>	Community property	Community property	Marital property regime
<i>Bienes privativos</i>	Separate property	Separate property	Non-community marital property
<i>Usufructo</i>	Usufruct	Life estate (loosely)	Right to use another's property
<i>Nuda propiedad</i>	Naked ownership	Remainder (loosely)	Ownership subject to usufruct

4. Relationship to Parent Profiles

4.1 Inheritance Chain

A container with "jurisdictionProfile": "us-pr" is simultaneously:

- A valid **ADAC 1.0** container
- A valid **ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1** container (base profile)
- A valid **ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1** container (country layer)
- A valid **ADAC-Legal-US-PR 0.9.0-draft.1** container (this specification)

4.2 What This Specification Adds

Category	Base ADAC-Legal	+ ADAC-Legal-US	+ ADAC-Legal-US-PR
Document types	13 base values	+ 14 US values	+ 10 PR values
Confidentiality levels	6 base values	+ 3 US values	No additions
Matter types	10 base values	+ 10 US values	+ 5 PR values
Custody actions	8 base values	+ 3 US values	+ 3 PR values
Redaction reasons	8 base values	+ 7 US values	+ 1 PR value
Field guidance	General	PACER, federal courts	Spanish court names, <i>municipio</i> jurisdiction, bilingual conventions
Terminology	—	—	18-term bilingual cross-reference (Spanish ↔ English ↔ common law)

4.3 Container Format

No changes. Puerto Rico containers use the same structure as all ADAC-Legal containers:

- File extension: .adac
 - Profile file: metadata/profiles/legal.json
 - profileType: "legal"
 - jurisdictionProfile: "us-pr"
-

5. Jurisdiction Profile Identifier

Property	Value
Identifier	"us-pr"
Full name	ADAC-Legal-US-PR
Scope	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (<i>Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico</i>)
ISO 3166-2	US-PR
Legal tradition	Civil law (Spanish Civil Code tradition)
Parent profile	"us" (ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1)
Official languages	Spanish (primary), English

5.1 When This Profile Applies

Use "jurisdictionProfile": "us-pr" when:

- The legal matter is governed by Puerto Rico law.
- The document was filed in, produced by, or recorded in a Puerto Rico court, *Registro de la Propiedad*, *Registro Demográfico*, or notarial protocol.
- The document involves Puerto Rico-specific legal concepts (civil law successions, *legítima*, *escrituras públicas*, community property under Puerto Rico Civil Code).

Use the base US profile ("us") instead when:

- The matter is in the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico applying federal law. However, when the federal court applies Puerto Rico substantive law (e.g., diversity jurisdiction), "us-pr" MAY be used.

6. Puerto Rico-Specific Well-Known Values

The following value sets extend both the base ADAC-Legal and ADAC-Legal-US well-known values. All parent values remain valid — these are **additions only**.

6.1 Document Types

Additions to `classification.documentType`.

Value	Spanish	Description	Legal Basis
"escrituraPublica"	<i>Escritura pública</i>	Public deed executed before a notary and witnesses with full evidentiary force.	4 LPRA § 2001 et seq. (Ley Notarial)
"testamentoAbierto"	<i>Testamento abierto</i>	Open (notarial) will executed before a notary and witnesses.	31 LPRA § 2161 (Código Civil 2020, Art. 1614)
"testamentoCerrado"	<i>Testamento cerrado</i>	Closed (sealed) will presented to a notary in a sealed envelope with formal superscription.	31 LPRA § 2163 (Código Civil 2020, Art. 1616)
"testamentoOlógrafo"	<i>Testamento ológrafo</i>	Holographic will entirely in the testator's handwriting, dated, and signed.	31 LPRA § 2165 (Código Civil 2020, Art. 1618)
"demanda"	<i>Demanda</i>	Complaint — initial pleading commencing a civil action.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 6 (Reglas de Procedimiento Civil)
"contestacion"	<i>Contestación</i>	Answer to a complaint.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 6.3
"reconvencion"	<i>Reconvención</i>	Counterclaim filed by the defendant.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 6.7
"sentencia"	<i>Sentencia</i>	Judgment or court decision.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 39
"cedulaCitacion"	<i>Cédula de citación</i>	Summons — court document directing a party to appear or respond.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 4
"certificacionRegistral"	<i>Certificación registral</i>	Registry certification — official document issued by the <i>Registro de la Propiedad</i> certifying the status of a property title.	30 LPRA § 2001 et seq. (Ley Hipotecaria)

6.2 Matter Types

Additions to `caseReference.matterType`.

Value	Spanish	Description	Legal Basis
"sucesion"	<i>Sucesión</i>	Succession proceeding — administration and distribution of a decedent's estate under Puerto Rico civil law.	31 LPRA § 2361 et seq. (Código Civil 2020, Libro V)

Value	Spanish	Description	Legal Basis
"tutela"	<i>Tutela</i>	Tutorship proceeding — appointment of a tutor for a minor.	31 LPRA § 591 et seq. (Código Civil 2020, Art. 447–474)
"incapacidad"	<i>Declaración de incapacidad</i>	Incapacity proceeding — judicial declaration that a person is incapable of managing their affairs and appointment of a guardian (<i>tutor</i>).	32 LPRA Ap. V (Procedimiento especial)
"deslinde"	<i>Deslinde</i>	Boundary determination proceeding — action to establish the boundaries between adjacent properties. Specific to civil law jurisdictions.	31 LPRA § 1081 et seq. (Código Civil 2020, Art. 809)
"interdicto"	<i>Interdicto</i>	Possessory action — summary proceeding to protect possession of property against disturbance or dispossession.	32 LPRA Ap. V, R. 60

6.3 Custody Actions

Additions to `custodyChain[]`.action.

Value	Description	Legal Basis
"registeredPropertyRegistry"	Document inscribed in the Puerto Rico <i>Registro de la Propiedad</i> (Property Registry).	30 LPRA § 2001 et seq.
"depositedNotarialProtocol"	Original <i>escritura pública</i> deposited in the notary's protocol volume.	4 LPRA § 2001 et seq.
"registeredDemographicRegistry"	Vital event (birth, death, marriage) registered with the <i>Registro Demográfico</i> .	24 LPRA § 1131 et seq.

6.4 Redaction Reasons

Additions to redaction annotation reason.

Value	Description	Legal Basis
"vitalRecordConfidentiality"	Puerto Rico vital records (birth, death, marriage certificates) protected under <i>Registro Demográfico</i> confidentiality provisions.	24 LPRA § 1137

6.5 Confidentiality Levels

No Puerto Rico–specific additions. The base ADAC-Legal and ADAC-Legal-US confidentiality levels are sufficient for Puerto Rico practice.

7. Puerto Rico–Specific Field Guidance

7.1 Case Reference

7.1.1 Case Number

Puerto Rico courts use a case number format that includes the judicial region, case type, and sequence:

Format	Example	Description
Standard format	SJ2025CV01234	Region code + year + case type + sequence.
Alternative format	KLCE202500123	Varies by region and case management system.

Common case type codes:

Code	Spanish	Description
CV	<i>Civil</i>	Civil cases
PE	<i>Penal</i>	Criminal cases
FA	<i>Familia</i>	Family law
SU	<i>Sucesión</i>	Successions (probate)
MN	<i>Menores</i>	Juvenile / minor cases

7.1.2 Court Name

The `caseReference.courtName` field SHOULD use the official Spanish-language court name. English translations MAY be appended in parentheses for cross-jurisdiction clarity:

Example	Notes
"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de San Juan"	Court of First Instance, Superior Division, San Juan.

Example	Notes
"Tribunal de Apelaciones de Puerto Rico"	Court of Appeals.
"Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico"	Supreme Court.
"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala de Investigaciones de Bayamón"	Court of First Instance, Investigations Division (criminal), Bayamón.

Applications MAY display bilingual court names. The authoritative form is Spanish.

7.1.3 Jurisdiction

When `jurisdictionProfile` is "us-pr":

Field	Guidance
<code>jurisdiction.country</code>	MUST be "US".
<code>jurisdiction.state</code>	MUST be "Puerto Rico".
<code>jurisdiction.county</code>	SHOULD contain the <i>municipio</i> name (e.g., "San Juan", "Ponce", "Bayamón"). Puerto Rico has no counties — the <code>county</code> field is repurposed for <i>municipios</i> , consistent with the base spec's definition of "county, parish, or equivalent subdivision."

Implementation note: Applications displaying Puerto Rico containers SHOULD render the `jurisdiction.county` label as "Municipio" rather than "County" when `jurisdictionProfile` is "us-pr".

7.2 Bilingual Document Handling

Puerto Rico legal documents are predominantly in Spanish. When archiving documents:

- The `languages` field in the ADAC core metadata SHOULD include "es" (Spanish) as the primary language.
- For documents with English translations (common in federal proceedings), include both "es" and "en".
- Transcription linked entities (`genealogy:transcription` when coexisting with `genealogy` profiles, or future legal transcription entities) SHOULD set `originalLanguage` to "es" and provide `translatedText` + `translatedLanguage`: "en" when English translations are available.

7.3 Notarial Act Metadata

Puerto Rico notarial acts (*escrituras públicas*) follow the Spanish notarial tradition:

Base Field	Puerto Rico Usage
classification.documentType	Use "escrituraPublica" for public deeds.
custodyChain[].action	Use "depositedNotarialProtocol" when the original is bound in the notary's protocol volume. Use "registeredPropertyRegistry" when the deed is inscribed in the <i>Registro de la Propiedad</i> .
custodyChain[].organization	For the Property Registry: "Registro de la Propiedad de Puerto Rico, Sección de [Region]". For notarial protocols: "Protocolo de [Notary Name], Notario [Number]".

7.4 Successions Documents

Puerto Rico successions proceedings produce documents similar to (but distinct from) Louisiana's:

Document	documentType Value	Description
<i>Demanda</i> (petition to open succession)	"demanda"	Initial pleading to commence successions proceedings.
<i>Testamento abierto</i>	"testamentoAbierto"	Notarial will to be probated.
<i>Testamento ológrafo</i>	"testamentoOlografo"	Holographic will — must be authenticated and probated.
<i>Sentencia</i> (declaration of heirs)	"sentencia"	Court judgment declaring heirs and their shares, including the <i>legítima</i> .
<i>Escritura pública</i> (partition deed)	"escrituraPublica"	Notarial deed distributing estate assets among heirs. Registered in the <i>Registro de la Propiedad</i> to transfer title.

7.5 Retention Policy

Puerto Rico has specific document retention requirements:

Record Type	Retention Period	Authority
Notarial protocols	Permanent — transferred to court archives after notary ceases practice.	4 LPRA § 2044
Property Registry inscriptions	Permanent.	30 LPRA § 2001 et seq.
Court records	Varies; typically 10–25 years for civil, permanent for criminal.	Administrative directives of the <i>Oficina de Administración de los Tribunales</i>

Record Type	Retention Period	Authority
Vital records (<i>Registro Demográfico</i>)	Permanent.	24 LPRA § 1131 et seq.

8. Puerto Rico Court System Reference

8.1 Court Hierarchy

Level	Court	Spanish Name	Notes
Supreme Court	Supreme Court of Puerto Rico	<i>Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico</i>	9 justices. Highest court.
Appellate	Court of Appeals of Puerto Rico	<i>Tribunal de Apelaciones de Puerto Rico</i>	39 judges. Panels of 3.
Trial	Court of First Instance	<i>Tribunal de Primera Instancia</i>	General jurisdiction. Organized into 13 judicial regions across 78 <i>municipios</i> .

8.2 Court of First Instance Divisions

The *Tribunal de Primera Instancia* has specialized divisions (*salas*):

Division	Spanish	Jurisdiction
Superior	<i>Sala Superior</i>	General civil and criminal matters.
Municipal	<i>Sala Municipal</i>	Lesser civil matters, misdemeanors, traffic.
Investigations	<i>Sala de Investigaciones</i>	Criminal preliminary proceedings, warrants.

8.3 Judicial Regions

Puerto Rico has 13 judicial regions. Each covers one or more *municipios*:

Region	Seat	Key <i>Municipios</i>	Example courtName
San Juan	San Juan	San Juan, Trujillo Alto, Guaynabo	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de San Juan"
Bayamón	Bayamón	Bayamón, Cataño, Toa Alta, Toa Baja	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Bayamón"

Region	Seat	Key <i>Municipios</i>	Example courtName
Ponce	Ponce	Ponce, Juana Díaz, Villalba	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Ponce"
Mayagüez	Mayagüez	Mayagüez, Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Mayagüez"
Arecibo	Arecibo	Arecibo, Hatillo, Camuy	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Arecibo"
Aguadilla	Aguadilla	Aguadilla, Isabela, Moca	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Aguadilla"
Carolina	Carolina	Carolina, Loíza, Canóvanas	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Carolina"
Caguas	Caguas	Caguas, Gurabo, Juncos	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Caguas"
Humacao	Humacao	Humacao, Yabucoa, Naguabo	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Humacao"
Guayama	Guayama	Guayama, Arroyo, Patillas	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Guayama"
Utuado	Utuado	Utuado, Adjuntas, Jayuya	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Utuado"
Fajardo	Fajardo	Fajardo, Vieques, Culebra	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Fajardo"
Manatí	Manatí	Manatí, Barceloneta, Ciales	"Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de Manatí"

8.4 Federal Court

The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico sits in San Juan and applies federal law. Proceedings may be conducted in English, Spanish, or both:

Court	courtName Value
U.S. District Court	"U.S. District Court, District of Puerto Rico"
U.S. Court of Appeals	"U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit" (Puerto Rico is in the First Circuit)

9. Complete Puerto Rico Container Example

9.1 Container Structure

```
rivera-succession-sanjuan-2025.adac
├─ manifest.json
├─ master/
│   └─ master_0001.tif          (Escritura pública - partition deed)
├─ metadata/
│   ├── core.json
│   └─ profiles/
│       └─ legal.json
├─ regions/
│   └─ master-001.regions.json
└─ provenance/
    ├── log.json
    └─ checksums.json
```

9.2 Legal Profile (metadata/profiles/legal.json)

```
{
  "profileVersion": "0.9.0-draft.1",
  "profileType": "legal",
  "jurisdictionProfile": "us-pr",
  "caseReference": {
    "caseNumber": "SJ2025SU00234",
    "courtName": "Tribunal de Primera Instancia, Sala Superior de San Juan",
    "jurisdiction": {
      "country": "US",
      "state": "Puerto Rico",
      "county": "San Juan"
    },
  },
  "matterType": "sucesion",
  "caption": "Sucesión de Carmen Rivera Rodríguez",
  "parties": [
    { "name": "Luis Rivera Torres", "role": "petitioner" },
    { "name": "Sucesión de Carmen Rivera Rodríguez", "role": "decedent" }
  ]
},
"classification": {
  "documentType": "escrituraPublica",
  "filingDate": "2025-07-20T00:00:00Z",
  "confidentialityLevel": "public",
  "retentionPolicy": {
    "period": "permanent",
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    "disposition": "archive"
  }
},
"custodyChain": [
  {
    "action": "depositedNotarialProtocol",
    "custodian": "Lcdo. María López Martínez, Notaria #1234",
    "timestamp": "2025-07-20T11:00:00Z",
    "organization": "Protocolo de María López Martínez, Notaria #1234",
    "notes": "Escritura pública de partición de herencia otorgada ante notaria y
testigos."
  },
  {
    "action": "registeredPropertyRegistry",
    "custodian": "Registro de la Propiedad, Sección de San Juan",
    "timestamp": "2025-07-25T09:00:00Z",
    "organization": "Registro de la Propiedad de Puerto Rico, Sección de San Juan",
    "notes": "Inscrita para transferir título de propiedad inmueble en Calle
Fortaleza 456, San Juan, PR 00901."
  },
  {
    "action": "scanned",
    "custodian": "Departamento de Archivo",
    "timestamp": "2025-08-01T10:00:00Z",
    "organization": "Rivera & Asociados LLC",
    "notes": "Escaneado de copia certificada a 600 DPI, formato TIFF."
  }
]
}

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10. Validation

10.1 Base Validation

Puerto Rico containers are validated by the standard ADAC validator and all ADAC-Legal and ADAC-Legal-US validation rules. No additional validation error codes are defined by this specification.

10.2 Recommended Puerto Rico–Specific Application-Level Checks

Check	Description
Jurisdiction state	When jurisdictionProfile is "us-pr", verify that jurisdiction.state is "Puerto Rico" if populated.

Check	Description
Municipio label	When displaying <code>jurisdiction.county</code> for a "us-pr" container, render the label as "Municipio" rather than "County".
Court name language	Verify that <code>courtName</code> uses the authoritative Spanish-language form for Puerto Rico courts.
Notarial act custody	When <code>documentType</code> is "escrituraPublica", verify that the custody chain includes a "depositedNotarialProtocol" or "registeredPropertyRegistry" entry.
Bilingual metadata	When the document language includes "es", verify that transcription entities provide <code>originalLanguage: "es"</code> .

11. References

11.1 Normative References

Reference	Description
ADAC 1.0 Format Specification	The base container format.
ADAC-Legal 0.9.0-draft.1 Profile Specification	The base legal profile.
ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1 Profile Specification	The US jurisdiction profile this subdivision extends.
RFC 2119	Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels.

11.2 Informative References

Reference	Description
Código Civil de Puerto Rico (2020)	The Civil Code of Puerto Rico, substantially revised in 2020. Governs property, obligations, successions, and family law.
Reglas de Procedimiento Civil de Puerto Rico	Rules of Civil Procedure for Puerto Rico courts.
Ley Notarial de Puerto Rico (4 LPRÁ § 2001 et seq.)	The Notarial Law governing notaries and notarial protocols.
Ley Hipotecaria de Puerto Rico (30 LPRÁ § 2001 et seq.)	The Mortgage/Property Registry Law governing property inscriptions.

Reference	Description
Rama Judicial de Puerto Rico	The Judicial Branch of Puerto Rico — court structure, regions, and administrative information.
Registro Demográfico de Puerto Rico	The Demographic Registry — vital records for Puerto Rico.
ISO 3166-2:US-PR	Puerto Rico subdivision code.

About the Editor

ADAC is edited and maintained by **John Vaden**, a genealogist and technical workflow contributor with decades of experience in genealogical research and in shaping data practices and process standards across analyst and software development teams. His work on ADAC emphasizes clarity, interoperability, and practical implementation for genealogists, developers, and archival practitioners. InnoVadens, LLC serves as the legal steward of the ADAC Standard.

He is not a legal professional, and ADAC-Legal does not provide legal advice.

Document History

- v1.0 — Initial release by Editor (John Vaden); AI-assisted drafting and refinement