

# Full Circle

BY MAREN HENDRICKS

One part artist and one part lawyer, Lucas Guerreiro brings a creative edge to the practice of law. Add to that his role as a whistleblower in Brazil and his commitment to justice, and he's made quite a splash in the LLM program at BYU Law.

Guerreiro was set on pursuing a career in art until his mission president suggested that law would be a good outlet for his energy and creativity. So Guerreiro earned his law degree from Universidade São Judas Tadeu in São Paulo, Brazil, but he never abandoned his love for the visual arts. While studying, he used his artistic talent to diagram and visualize complex legal principles. "Law school was really hard," he says, "and putting legal concepts into a visual medium helped me to blend a new legal vocabulary with my natural artistic language. Art was integral to my learning the law."

After earning his law degree and passing the difficult *concurso público* (civil service exam), Guerreiro started down a government career path that would entangle him in six years of litigation, inspire him to pursue an LLM degree, and bring him back full circle to the visual arts.

Guerreiro began work as a certified inspector for the Conselho Regional de Corretores de Imóveis (CRECI), an association responsible for regulating ethics and professionalism in

Brazil's real estate industry. Though he enjoyed the work, Guerreiro was disturbed by the irregularities and corruption he observed within the organization. "I filed 13 complaints with Brazil's Public Ministry of Labor, and as a result I was fired," he says. He filed a labor complaint alleging wrongful termination and initially lost the case, but he appealed and, ultimately, the Superior Labor Court of Brazil decided the case in his favor. By the end, the legal process had taken six years. Guerreiro recalls, "This was a difficult time in my life. However, I believe that when you are faithful to the law, justice will prevail."

He worked as a solo practitioner during this period, taking advantage of the flexibility in his life to come to the United States to hone his English language skills. Guerreiro jumped at the chance to pursue a degree in BYU Law's full-time two-semester LLM program, which allows foreign lawyers to study the US legal system. He resolved to use his degree to pursue justice in a way that would be meaningful for him.

The LLM program has been transformative for Guerreiro, and it has given him the opportunity to explore his artistic inclinations in a new context. He is now participating in a BYU Law clinic on visual graphics and law. The clinic is the perfect intersection for him: "I love mixing art with the law. This is what I'm

passionate about, and I'm grateful that I've been able to pursue both of these priorities here at BYU Law."

This art-law blend will allow Guerreiro to help others pursue justice when he returns to Brazil. He says, "In my country, many people don't know what their rights are or how to pursue legal action. Social media is the best way to reach the most people to educate them about this." Guerreiro would know. In 2018, he launched *Videira Verdadeira*

(*True Vine*), an independent YouTube channel in Portuguese promoting study of Latter-day Saint doctrine and principles, which has amassed a loyal following of over 40,000 subscribers. After he graduates with his LLM in April 2023, he plans to start a social media platform related to religious freedom. "In Brazil," he explains, "lawyers are often not focused on how they can use social media to provide greater access to the law. I want to change that."

