

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Roosevelt House, Hunter College

Forum on 100 Years of Puerto Rican American Citizenship

The Jones Act of 1917 provided for the collective naturalization of the residents of Puerto Rico. Congress subsequently enacted a "birthright" provision in the Nationality Act of 1940 granting a native-born status to Puerto Ricans. Yet, many policymakers in the U.S. and Puerto Rico erroneously believe or deceptively propose that U.S. citizenship for island-born Puerto Ricans residing in Puerto Rico is contingent upon the resolution of the territorial status of Puerto Rico.

In the special Jones Act 100th Anniversary issue of *CENTRO: The Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, University of Connecticut Professor Charles Venator-Santiago and other experts demonstrate that Puerto Ricans' U.S. Citizenship is permanent and irreversible.

Join us for an interesting and engaging conversation on this important topic with Professor Venator-Santiago and other invited guests.

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6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Reception to Follow

**Puerto Rican Bar Association — New York
and Center for Puerto Rican Studies**

**Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College
47- 49 East 65th Street, New York City, 10065**

RSVP: <http://centropr.nationbuilder.com/jonesact2017>

Sixty-fourth Congress of the United States of America;

At the Second Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of December,
one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

AN ACT

To provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the island of Porto Rico and to the adjacent islands belonging to the United States, and waters of those islands; and the name Porto Rico as used in this Act shall be held to include not only the island of that name but all the adjacent islands as aforesaid.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

SEC. 2. That no law shall be enacted in Porto Rico which shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or deny to any person therein the equal protection of the laws.

That in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to have the assistance of counsel for his defense, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to have a copy thereof, to have a speedy and public trial, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor.

That no person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense without due process of law; and no person for the same offense shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.

That all persons shall before conviction be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

