



CLAUDIA ESCOBAR BIO - 2017

Doctor Claudia Escobar is a former magistrate of the Court of Appeals of Guatemala. Re-elected in 2014 to a second term, she resigned due to executive and legislative interference in the judiciary and relocated to the United States owing to intimidation back home.

Escobar, was born when the internal armed conflict started in Guatemala. The civil war lasted more than 36 years. Having grown up in a region mark by impunity, corruption and violence, she has dedicated her life to work for the respect of law and justice.

She is also a respected legal scholar, who has taught at Guatemalan universities. In addition, she is founder of the Judiciary Institute and the Association for the Development of Democratic Institutionalities and Comprehensive Development for Central

America - Asociación FIDDI-, two organizations dedicated to promoting the rule of law in Guatemala.

All the activities she has performed through her career and personal life have been characterized by a strong sense of ethics. Her compromise with democracy, freedom and justice, have always been present in her actions.

Dr. Escobar obtained her Ph.D at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, her law degree at the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala and did college in Louisiana State University. During 2015 – 2016 she was a fellow at Harvard University, becoming the first Central American to be awarded a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

On June 2017, she was recognized

with the “Democracy Award”. The award is given annually by the National Endowment for Democracy’s Board of Directors to recognize the courageous and creative work of individuals and organizations that have advanced the cause of human rights and democracy around the world.

Actually, she is fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy where she promotes the importance of judicial independence as a tool to fight corruption. She also hopes to assess how this relates to high levels of impunity and corruption in Guatemala and other Latin-American countries.

In the future she expects to work in issues related to the Rule of Law, building strong judicial systems and promoting judicial independence in Latin America in order to fight corruption.