

MONICA M. TORRES-LINARES

19-4077

EDUCATION

THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Juris Doctor, conferred May 2002

- Public Interest Legal Initiative Scholar, 2001, 2002
- Illinois Judicial Council Scholarship Recipient, 2001
- The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois Scholarship Fund Recipient, 1999, 2001

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, URBANA, ILLINOIS

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Minor in Spanish, conferred December 1998

- Law Minority Access Program Scholar, 1998
- McNair Scholar Recipient, 1996-1998
- Quad Cities Mexican American Organization Scholarship Recipient, 1996-1998
- League of United Latin American Citizens Scholarship Recipient, 1994-1998
- Office of Minority Student Affairs Award Recipient, 1998

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

JUSTICIA ATTORNEYS/ABOGADOS, Chicago, Illinois

Managing Counsel, July 2013-Present

- Manage the comprehensive law firm serving community needs in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice.
- Serves as appointed *Guardian Ad Litem* and represents minors in the care of DCFS.
- Appointed to represent juveniles and parents in Juvenile Justice by Cook County Court Judges.
- Appointed to represent clients in Child Protection by Cook County Court Judges.

LAW OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, Chicago, Illinois

Assistant Public Defender, July 2013 – November 2013

- Represented clients in Child Protection Proceedings to prevent termination of parental rights.
- Litigated Temporary Custody Hearings, Adjudication Hearings, Disposition Hearings and Visitation.

Assistant Public Defender, August 2004-March 2007

- Investigated issues and litigated post-conviction petitions for clients.
- Composed legal memoranda for direct appeals and post-conviction petitions for clients.

LAF (LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION), Chicago, Illinois

Staff Attorney, Consumer Practice Group, March 2012-July 2013

- Litigated on behalf of residents in nursing homes for violations of the Nursing Home Care Act.
- Investigated financial abuse, wrongful health-care powers of attorney and breach of care standards.

Staff Attorney, Public Benefits Practice Group, July 2011-February 2012

- Represented clients in denials of Social Security, Medicaid, cash and food stamps and other public benefits.
- Supervised intake specialist on advising clients on various legal issues at CSU.

Staff Attorney, South Holland Service Office, September 2008-July 2011

- Intake and advised low-income clients, including native Spanish speakers on various legal issues.
- Represent clients on issues of employment, housing, social security, consumer fraud, and family law.

THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL, Chicago, Illinois

Assistant Director for Career Services, September 2007- September 2008

- Counseled students and alumni on interview skills, career planning and job search strategies.
- Spoke and presented for student programs and diversity contact to legal employers and the legal community.

THE MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, Chicago, Illinois

Staff Attorney, April 2007-September 2007

- Conducted employment discrimination clinics, media representative, translated legal documents for clients.
- Investigated legal issues and prepared legal memoranda for civil rights litigation.

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION, Chicago, Illinois

Staff Attorney/ Court Coordinator, May 2003-August 2004

- Researched issues of judicial review and composed memos on judicial procedure.
- Prepared daily court calls for judges, drafted bar attorney's appointment orders, and instanterred cases.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Illinois, May 2003.
- United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, April 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE EXPERIENCE

CITY OF CHICAGO, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS, Chicago, Illinois

Administrative Law Judge, January 2016-Present

- Administrative Law Judge for cases concerning alleged violations of the Municipal Code of Chicago.
- Decides ordinance violations concerning the public health, safety, welfare, morals and quality of life of the residents of the City of Chicago

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

CITY OF CHICAGO, COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS, Chicago, Illinois

Mediator, July 2008-July 2012, July 2017-Present

- Mediator for parties involved in disputes concerning the Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances.
- Mediate issues concerning housing, employment, credit, bonding and public accommodations.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Mediator, Center for Conflict Resolution, Chicago, Illinois (February 2006)

ORGANIZATIONS

- The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Member, Chicago, Illinois.
- The Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois, Member, Chicago, Illinois.
- The Hispanic National Bar Association, Member, Washington, DC.

AWARDS

- The CBF Chicago Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellow, Chicago, Illinois, October 2010.
- Chicago Latino Network, Latina Professional of the Year, Chicago, September 2009.
- 35 Under 35 Community Leaders Awards, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, Illinois, May 2009.
- The John Marshall Law School Latino Law Student Association, Alumni Award, Chicago, Illinois, April 2009.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Legal Prep Charter Academies, *Founding Board Member*, February 2010-May 2017.
- CAN TV, *Board Member*, December 2012-December 2014.
- The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, *President* May 2008- May 2009; *Board of Directors*, May 2005- May 2010, Chicago, Illinois.
- The 35 Under 35 Selection Committee, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, Illinois, May 2010-Present.
- Steering Committee, Events, The Geneva Foundation for Youth, Chicago, Illinois, June-December 2010.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Department, Volunteer Attorney, Chicago, IL, July 2014-Present.
- Cook County Elder Justice Center, Volunteer Attorney, Chicago, IL, February 2014-July 2016.
- Latino Family Commission, Volunteer Attorney, Chicago, IL, January 2014-January 2015.
- Wills for Heroes Volunteer Attorney, Chicago, Illinois, March 15, 2014.
- Temporary Driver's License Workshop Volunteer Attorney, Chicago, Illinois, January 2014.
- DACA Workshop volunteer screener for LAF at NEIU, Chicago, Illinois, September 12, 2012.
- JD Mentor Program, The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, 2004-Present.
- Pro Bono Attorney, Executive Clemency Petition to the Illinois State Prisoner Review Board, 2004-2014.
- Latino Law Forum, Program Coordinator, The John Marshall Law School, February 2008.
- The John Marshall Law School Alumni Mentor Program, Mentor, 2017-2018.
- Minority Legal Education Resources (MLER), Bar Exam Tutor, July 2003-February 2004.
- Volunteer election attorney aiding Spanish-speaking voters, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 2004.
- Obama for Senate-Chicago Volunteer in the Latino Community, 2004.

PRESENTATIONS

- Minority Lawyers in the Profession, Northwestern University Law School, 2016
- 3rd Annual Minority Bar CLE Conference, Family Law: Attorney Presenter, Chicago, Illinois, June 19, 2015.
- Conozca Sus Derechos, Univision, Attorney Presenter, Chicago, Illinois, April 21, 2015.
- Unity High School: Live Your Dreams, Attorney Presenter, Cicero, Illinois, April 25, 2015.
- Oro Latino 8th Open Forum Breakfast, Attorney Presenter, Melrose Park, Illinois, January 23, 2015.
- Illinois Immigrant Integration Policy Summit: Keeping Our Families Together. Attorney Presenter, Chicago, Illinois, February 22, 2014.
- How to Buy a Home Workshop, Attorney Presenter, The Resurrection Project, Chicago, Sept.-Oct. 2016.
- "Latinos in the Law," Guest Speaker, Northeastern Illinois University El Centro Campus, Chicago, Illinois, November 2008, November 2009, November 2010, December 2012, December 2013.
- "Latino Professionals and Community Leaders," Panelist, Northeastern Illinois University, April 2010.
- Proviso High School, Career Day Attorney Panelist, Maywood, Illinois, February 2009.
- "HLAI Practice Area Panel," Speaker, Loyola University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, March 2008.
- "The Current State of Latinos and the Law," Guest Speaker, Northeastern Illinois University El Centro Campus, First-Year Experience, Chicago, Illinois, April 2006, December 2006, April 2007, December 2008.
- The McNair Scholar's Annual Scholarship Banquet, Keynote Speaker, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois, May 2006.
- "Friday *Charlas*: Discussions with Latino Professionals," Guest Speaker, Northeastern Illinois University El Centro Campus, Chicago, Illinois, July 2005, July 2006.
- "In Defense of: Representing Foreign Nationals," Moderator, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois and the Pakistani Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois, February 2006.
- "A Student's Perspective," Moderator, Minority Student Affairs, The University of Illinois, Summer 1997.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- DePaul University College of Law, Legal Trek, Chicago, Illinois, Panel Speaker, July 2018, July 2017.
- The University of Illinois, Education Justice Project, Urbana, Illinois, Keynote Speaker, March 18, 2014.
- Peoria Bar Association, Diversity Luncheon, Peoria, Illinois, Keynote Speaker, October 23, 2013.
- The University of Illinois, La Casa Graduation, Urbana, Illinois, Keynote Speaker, May 12, 2012.
- Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois, McNairs Scholars Program Graduation Ceremony, Keynote Speaker, May 10, 2006.

FELLOWSHIPS

- ENLACE Fellowship Program-Northeastern Illinois University, August 2004-May 2005.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Chicago, Illinois
Adjunct Professor, Sociology Department, May 2005- June 2006.

- Sociology 270-Sociology of the Latina

LAW CLERK EXPERIENCE

IDRIZI & ASSOCIATES, Chicago, Illinois
Law Clerk, October 2002-January 2003

- Prepared visas, asylum, naturalization, and employment authorization petitions for clients.
- Interpreted client meetings and explained legal concepts to Spanish-speaking clients.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST, Chicago, Illinois
PILI Intern, January 2002-May 2002

- Assisted public interest attorneys in matters of housing law through legal research.
- Aided attorneys in drafting housing legislation for review by state legislators.

HONORABLE RONALD F. BARTKOWICZ, Chicago, Illinois
JMLS Judicial Extern, August 2001-December 2001

- Researched case law on judicial questions in post-trial motions.
- Attended voir dire hearings, motion in limine conferences, and instruction conferences.

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, Chicago, Illinois
PILI Intern, Summer 2001

- Worked on issues concerning civil rights violations and immigrant rights.
- Prepared legal memos for litigation and accompanied attorneys to meetings with opposing-counsel.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOCENCE CLINIC (JMLS), Chicago, Illinois
Legal Intern, January 2001-May 2001

- Investigated and abstracted trial transcripts on innocence claims.
- Performed searches to aid incarcerated inmates obtain appeals.

POLICIES STUDIES INCORPORATED, Davenport, Iowa
Child Support Specialist, February 1999-May 1999

- Established child support orders for non-custodial parents.
- Interviewed clients regarding child custody for state attorneys.

BAKER & MCKENZIE, Chicago, Illinois

Law MAP Intern, Summer 1998

- Researched case law with summer associates for lawsuits concerning corporate international law.
- Attended court proceedings and assisted in translating interviews in a pro bono case.

PUBLICATIONS

- Editor of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Noticias E-Newsletter, June 2008- May 2009
- Editor of the JMLS Career Services Office First Year Law Student Newsletter, Sept. 2007- Sept. 2008
- Editor of the Child Protection Division Quarterly, December 2003- August 2004
- Editor of MALDEF's state wide pamphlet, "Know Your Rights: A Guide to Rights Your Child Has When Facing Suspension or Expulsion in Illinois Public School," Summer 2001.

STUDY ABROAD

- Spain Summer Law Program Abroad, *College of William & Mary School of Law*, 2000.

SKILLS

- Professional legal research skills on Lexis and Westlaw online legal databases.
- Strong computer skills with Microsoft Office, Word Perfect, Excel and other professional computer software.
- Fluent Spanish speaker and writer.
- Basic comprehension of spoken and written French.
- Travel experience throughout the North and Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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