

Damaris “Mari” Hernández

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EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Candidate for Juris Doctor

Chicago, Illinois
Aug 2024 – May 2027

- **GPA:** 3.931
- **Honors:** Orville Taylor Law Scholar, 2025 HLSF Scholar, Dean’s List (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)
- **Activities:** *Northwestern University Law Review* (Online Executive Editor), Teaching Assistant to Janice Nadler (Criminal Law) and Peter DiCola (Property), Latine Law Students Association (President), StreetLaw (President), Public Interest Law Group (Director of Professional Development)

Relay Graduate School of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching in Illinois Middle Grades Mathematics

Chicago, Illinois
Jun 2020 – Jun 2022

Northwestern University

Bachelor of Science in Education and Social Policy in Learning Sciences, Mathematics

Evanston, Illinois
Sep 2016 – Jun 2020

- **Activities:** Jumpstart/AmeriCorps (Team Leader), Residential Services (Senior Resident Assistant)

EXPERIENCE

Equip for Equality

Special Education Clinic Intern

Chicago, Illinois
Aug 2025 – Dec 2025

- Drafted advocacy documents, including mediation and evaluation requests, and consulted families via helpline calls, delivering personalized guidance on securing legal entitlements to special education
- Analyzed school records and evidentiary materials to identify legal issues pertaining to disability rights, strengthening case strategy in negotiations and administrative proceedings
- Researched and analyzed state-level procedural safeguards for families under IDEA to inform drafting and advocacy of proposed legislation in Illinois

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Summer Associate, Diversity & Inclusion Fellow

Chicago, Illinois
May 2025 – July 2025

- Drafted ancillary documents, including termination agreements and credit agreement joinders, to support debt finance, buy-side acquisition transactions, and investment fund launch processes
- Prepared and revised closing documents, including post-closing obligation calendars, officer slates, and closing checklists to support complex acquisition transactions

The Academy Group Chicago

Learning Designer, Teaching Fellow

Chicago, Illinois
Jun 2018 – Present

- Created, implemented, and taught experiential learning curricula in business, civics, and mathematics for 50 student cohorts of 4th-7th grade students
- Researched extracurricular opportunities for 150+ elementary students across Chicago and developed a database to inform future programming based on learning criteria and participant feedback

Embarc

Experiential Education Coach

Chicago, Illinois
Jul 2022 – Jul 2024

- Authored guide to support 20+ school leadership teams in the creation of sustainable systems for experiential learning grounded in community relationships
- Coached educational leadership teams in Chicago Public High Schools to increase student and teacher leadership opportunities, facilitate youth designed courses, and develop community partnerships

Tarkington School of Excellence

6th-8th Grade Math Teacher

Chicago, Illinois
Aug 2020 – Jul 2022

- Developed, implemented, and taught self-paced learning modules based on 6th-8th grade Math Common Core State Standards for 100+ middle school students, increasing the student passing rate by 20%
- Researched and developed middle school math grading policy recommendations for school year 2021-2022 centered on mastery of grade level standards and anti-bias practices