

LAURA PADILLA

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EDUCATION

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL

Juris Doctor, expected May 2026

GPA: 3.58 (Rank 50/230)

Awards: Dean's List (Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025), National Child Welfare and Adoption Law Moot Court Competition Semifinalist and 4th Best Oralist, Loyola Intrascchool Competition 3rd Best Brief, CALI Awards in Land Use; Affordable Housing

Moot Court: National Moot Court Competition Team

Activities: Latino Law Student Association (President), Real Estate Law Society (Vice President), International Law Society

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts in Government and Minor in Education, Inquiry, & Justice, May 2018

Awards: Landegger Community Service Award, Outstanding Champion to LGBTQ Community, Patrick Healy Fellow

EXPERIENCE

Tristan & Cervantes, Chicago, IL

Law Clerk, January 2025-Present

- Utilize 711 license to appear in administrative hearings court to prosecute water debt on behalf of municipality
- Conduct legal research and drafted memoranda, pleadings, and briefs for commercial litigation and employment matters

Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., Chicago, IL

Summer Associate, May 2024-August 2024

- Conducted legal research on various issues for active cases in the civil rights and employment practice group
- Drafted legal documents such as memoranda, motions, demand letters, and declarations
- Corresponded with clients and potential clients to obtain information and documents necessary for representation

Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Community Engagement Manager, July 2021-July 2023

- Led City's response to migrant crisis with interdepartmental team and developed plan for orienting, sheltering, and resettling 10,000+ migrants, executed plan for donations and volunteer strategy, and trained 80+ staff
- Managed engagement efforts for assigned communities by establishing relationships with leaders in various sectors in 20 community areas, responding to concerns, and serving as liaison to city agencies and programs
- Maintained senior leadership informed by drafting memoranda on pressing issues, community events, and major initiatives
- Advised key agencies including Department of Public Health, Housing, Planning & Development, Water Management, Family and Support Services, and Chicago Public Library on engagement strategies for Mayoral priority initiatives
- Led 60+ community engagement events including town halls, roundtables, cultural celebrations, and focus groups

Project Manager, Office of New Americans, October 2020-July 2021

- Coordinated COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and informational campaigns for immigrant and refugee populations
- Facilitated roundtable with community stakeholders to gather input and recommendations for vaccine distribution strategy
- Acted as City's liaison with national coalitions of municipal leaders to advocate for national pro-immigrant policies and supported smaller jurisdictions with technical assistance
- Drafted amendments to Welcoming City Ordinance, internal policy proposals, and memos on immigrant inclusion

Legal Aid Chicago, Chicago, IL

Paralegal, June 2019-October 2020

- Managed caseload of more than 50 clients and drafted immigration petitions for various claims
- Conducted intake interviews and gathered relevant facts and documents to present at case acceptance meetings

OTHER

Language: Spanish (Native)

Volunteer: The Resurrection Project, Chicago, IL

Mujeres Latinas en Acción's Young Professional Advisory Council, Chicago, IL