

Priscilla J. Orta

EDUCATION

J.D., Columbia University School of Law, 2011

- *Columbia Law Review*, Staff
- *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*, Notes & Special Features Editor
- *Columbia Human Rights Law Review: A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*, Immigration Consequences of Criminal Offenses Author and Editor

Barred in KS and CO

B.A., Harvard University, 2005

IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Project Corazon, L4GG, Brownsville, TX June 2022-Present *Supervising Attorney*

- Responsible for creating a strategic plan for the future of the project.
- Recruit, hire, and train staff and volunteers.
- Manage program budget in concert with the accounting department.
- Find, draft and submit grants with the assistance of the grants team.
- Create and manage pro bono projects.
- Create training for pro bono volunteers.
- Represent Project Corazon/L4GG in the wider community by coordinating with local service providers in Cameron County, Reynosa and Matamoros.
- Represent Project Corazon/L4GG before national funders and partners.
- Directly represent migrants in both Cameron County and Mexico.

TRLA, Brownsville, TX January 2022-May 2022 *Deputy Special Projects Director*

- Served as Padilla attorney for Operation Lone Star clients.
- Created immigration-related training for staff public defenders.
- Prepared talking points and regularly spoke to the media about Operation Lone Star.

ProBAR, Harlingen, TX June 2019-January 2022 *Supervising Attorney* April 2021-January 2022 *Senior Attorney* June 2019-April 2021

- Hired, trained, and oversaw the work of Senior Attorneys, Staff Attorneys, and Accredited Representatives.
- Developed staff training on substantive immigration law and legal writing with the Legal Director and contract staff.
- Ensured compliance with current funding contracts.

- Routinely completed reporting and narratives for funding contracts.
- Researched, developed and implemented team building exercises and other staff retention

measures.

- Coached, led, provided feedback and disciplined to subordinates.
- Monitored attorney workloads and helped direct reports with case strategy, management and planning.
- Maintained and developed materials and documents for support of the legal staff. ● Routinely report issues to leadership related to the provision of legal services. ● Develops strategies to address challenges and constant changes to immigration practice.

Loyola Law School, Chicago, IL August 2018-June 2019 *Adjunct Professor of Immigration Law*

- Designed and taught practicum on removal defense, focusing on detained defensive asylum.

Private Practice Immigration Attorney, Chicago, IL July 2016-June 2019 ● Represented clients in all forms of removal defense, family-based affirmative cases, and some employment-based cases.

- Volunteered with community organizations to coordinate, train, and supervise legal interns and other volunteer attorneys at community walk-in clinics.
- Presented to community organizations and law schools in both English and Spanish.

Sunflower Community Action, Wichita, KS Fall of 2014- June 2016 *Managing Attorney*

- Created and managed the Legal Department.
- Represented clients in removal proceedings before EOIR and in affirmative matters before USCIS.
- Coordinated, trained, and supervised legal interns and volunteer attorneys.
- Created and presented community education presentations.
- Wrote local ordinances and state-based legislation to advance the rights of immigrants in Kansas.
- Lobbied for immigrant rights at the state and local level.
- Wrote grants to fund the department and managed partnerships with national organizations.
- Managed budget of over \$100,000.
- Represented the organization in local, state, and national coalitions.

Executive Office for Immigration Review, Harlingen, TX September 2011-July 2013

Attorney Advisor, DOJ Honors program

- Drafted decisions and orders.
- Researched a variety of topics as requested by judges.
- Offered legal recommendations to judges.
- Responsible for 50 cases or more at a time.
- Intern Supervisor.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

MALDEF, Chicago, IL April 2018-June 2019 *Staff Attorney*

- Litigated cases directly impacting the immigrant community in a fifteen-state region.

- Presented to community organizations and law schools in both English and Spanish. ●
- Managed, mentored, and trained all interns.

Richard Daley Community College, Chicago, IL January 2017-May 2017 Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice

- Designed and taught introductory criminal justice course.

SER Corporation, Wichita, KS

Executive Officer and Educational Coordinator 2006-2008 ● Implemented Department of Labor contract for the Senior Community Service Employment Program for the state of Kansas and a USCIS grant to provide comprehensive services to those eligible to apply for the N-400.

- Ensured compliance with federal regulations.
- Managed budget of nearly 1 million.
- Oversaw a staff of ten located in branch offices throughout the state.
- Developed curriculum for all ESL and Citizenship classes.
- Hired, trained, and disciplined staff for both programs.

OTHER

- Bilingual English/Spanish
- Researched, edited, and created content for Module 7 “Asylum Law at the Border” for the new AILA online asylum course.
- Member of RGV Welcoming Committee
- Volunteer Attorney for Proyecto Juan Diego