

2021 HNBA/VIA  
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## **HNBA ANNOUNCES 2021 TOP LAWYERS UNDER 40 RECIPIENTS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
February 25, 2021

Washington, D.C. – The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is proud to announce the exceptional attorneys who have been selected to receive the prestigious 2021 “HNBA Top Lawyers Under 40” Award.

After a rigorous review process, the Awards Committee selected 26 highly qualified HNBA members from across the country. The “Top Lawyers Under 40” Award honors exceptionally accomplished lawyers who have demonstrated professional excellence, integrity, leadership, commitment to the Hispanic community, and dedication to improving the legal profession.

“The HNBA is pleased to honor 26 of our outstanding young Hispanic lawyers from across the nation and across sectors that showcase the exceptional legal talent and leadership that our community has to offer,” said Elia Diaz-Yaeger, HNBA National President. “The award recipients were selected from a number of highly qualified candidates. The overwhelming number of highly qualified nominees every year illustrates our progress in the areas of law and leadership. Although much work remains to be done, the HNBA will continue to celebrate and highlight our talented lawyers that distinguish themselves.”

“On behalf of the HNBA, I want to thank the Awards Committee for their diligent work during this year’s particularly arduous selection process. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the award winners, and hope that as you continue to navigate the trajectory of your career, you will continue to raise your voice and be a driving force for real action and real change. I look forward to celebrating this accomplishment with all of you.”

The awards will be presented during the HNBA/VIA CCC2021 Virtual Welcome & Top Lawyers Under 40 Reception on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Elia Diaz-Yaeger  
HNBA National President

## The 2021 HNBA Top Lawyers Under 40 Recipients



*Zuri Balmakund Santiago, Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office  
Richfield, MN*

Zuri Balmakund Santiago is an Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, where she handles litigation matters on behalf of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. In 2020, Minnesota's AG Keith Ellison selected her to join a vetted contingent of trial lawyers to represent the State in high-profile criminal prosecutions. She also serves on her Office's Hiring and Recruitment Committee, helping ensure that the Office recruits competitive talent and develops prudent retention practices. Outside of her practice, Zuri is the President of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association. In 2016, she was appointed to the Minnesota Judicial Branch's Committee for Equality and Justice, where she works to promote equal access to, and public confidence in, Minnesota's judiciary. Finally, she serves as a Chairwoman for the Infinity Project's Strategic Relations Committee, and she coaches the University of St. Thomas School of Law's NYC Bar Association National Moot Court Team.



*Ricardo "Riqui" Bonilla, Principal, Fish & Richardson P.C.  
Dallas, TX*

Ricardo "Riqui" Bonilla is a Principal in Fish & Richardson's Dallas office, where he focuses his practice on patent litigation involving complex technologies. Riqui leads Fish's national Next Gen initiative, which provides opportunities for newer lawyers; serves as the firm's Dallas recruiting principal; and co-chairs Lawtinos, the firm's Hispanic/Latinx affinity group. He is Fish's representative for Microsoft's Strategic Affinity Partners Diversity Initiative. He has co-chaired the Lawyers Promoting Diversity Committee for the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers for four years, has spent five years as the City Lead for the 1L Diversity Mentorship for Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), and is an LCLD Alumni Executive Committee Member. He is active in HNBA, putting on multiple CLE panels and serving on the IP committee. Riqui earned his B.S., cum laude, in software engineering from UT Dallas and his J.D., magna cum laude, from Texas Tech University School of Law.



*Alexia R. Brancato, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
New York, NY*

Alexia R. Brancato started her legal career in Kirkland & Ellis's Washington, D.C. office, and is now a partner in Kirkland's New York office. Alexia is a member of the firm's litigation group, and practices in all areas of litigation, ranging from trade secret litigation to antitrust litigation. In addition to her litigation practice, Alexia maintains an active pro bono practice, focusing mainly on immigration matters for Hispanic clients, including representing domestic abuse survivors applying for immigration status under the Violence Against Women Act. Alexia is actively involved in diversity and inclusion efforts at Kirkland and serves as one of the leaders of Kirkland's Unidos Affinity Group in New York (and previously served in the same role in Kirkland's Washington, D.C. office). Alexia earned her J.D. from The University of Chicago Law School, and her B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Arizona State University.



*Cristina I. Calvar, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP  
New York, NY*

Cristina I. Calvar is a Partner in Winston & Strawn's New York office. An experienced litigator, she represents clients in white collar matters, government and internal investigations, and related civil litigation, often on multiple fronts at once. Cristina maintains an active pro bono practice, where she dedicates time representing clients in civil rights and immigration matters. Active in her legal community, she serves as the Secretary for the Federal Bar Council's Diversity Committee. Prior to joining Winston & Strawn, Cristina clerked for the Honorable David C. Guaderrama of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. Cristina received a B.A. in Political Science and B.F.A. in Dance, *high honors*, from the University of Michigan, and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Notre Dame Law School.



*Doralyn De Dios, Assistant District Attorney, Kings County District Attorney's Office (KCDA)*

Doralyn De Dios is an Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office (KCDA). She started her career at KCDA in the Domestic Violence bureau and the Integrated Domestic Violence bureau. Doralyn handled a caseload of over 250 cases a year ranging from misdemeanors to felonies and she first chaired several hearings and trials. Currently, Doralyn is a Felony Assistant District Attorney in the Frauds Bureau; where she leads the investigation of fraudulent schemes involving financial crimes, real estate fraud, elder fraud, human administration services fraud, insurance fraud, embezzlement, amongst other fraudulent schemes. Doralyn is a leader in the legal community, she serves as the President of the Dominican Bar Association and sits on the board of the Association of Black Women Attorneys. Doralyn earned her B.S. in Risk Management and Insurance from St. John's University, and her J.D. from New York Law School.



*Cesar Martin Estela, Attorney, Law Offices of Cesar Martin Estela Newark, NJ*

Cesar Estela was born in Lima, Peru, and was raised by his grandparents in Mexico while his parents worked throughout the United States as circus workers. He is a proud Newark, NJ native. Mr. Estela began working for a solo practitioner specializing in immigration law in 1999. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy and English and a Classical Studies minor, graduating *magna cum laude*, from Seton Hall University; and his Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall Law School in 2009.

Mr. Estela has been practicing as a solo practitioner specializing in immigration law since 2010. He is the current President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Ambassador for the American Immigration Council in New Jersey. He is also a member of American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the NJ Hispanic Bar Association, and the NJ State Bar Association.



*Alex Flores, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice in Albuquerque, New Mexico Law of War Instructor, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Albuquerque, NM*

Alex Flores is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Department of Justice in Albuquerque, New Mexico and a Law of War Instructor in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. He previously spent 6 years on active duty, mostly as a prosecutor – including as the complex trial prosecutor for all Marine units and installations in the western United States. Before that he served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the New Mexico Supreme Court. Alex has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and is presently the Vice President of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association. His past work includes policy and legal work in two congressional offices and policy analysis at two Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organizations. Alex earned his B.A. from The George Washington University, his Master of Public and

International Affairs degree from Princeton University, and a J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law.



*Renee Garcia, Chair, Litigation Group of the Philadelphia Law Department  
Philadelphia, PA*

Renee Garcia recently accepted the position of Chair of the Litigation Group of the Philadelphia Law Department where she will manage 150 people who provide litigation support to all departments, agencies, officials and employees of the City. In her prior role as Managing Senior Counsel at PNC Bank, Renee led a team that handled consumer litigation, and also advised on all aspects of the Bank's fair lending program. Renee also served as Chair of the PNC Pro Bono Committee.

Renee is a Director of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania and arts non-profit Intercultural Journeys. She is the recipient of the 2020 AL DÍA Top In-House Lawyer Award; 2017 HACR Young Hispanic Corporate Achiever Award; and 2015 Rising Star Award from the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Previously, Renee was an Associate at the law firm Hogan Lovells. Renee received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. from Barnard College.



*Denisse O. Gastélum, Trial Attorney, Casillas & Associates  
Long Beach, CA*

Denisse O. Gastélum is a trial attorney at Casillas & Associates, where she practices law in the areas of civil rights and catastrophic injury, representing plaintiffs in state and federal courts throughout the State of California. Her civil rights practice is focused on cases regarding excessive force and jail/confinement conditions. Ms. Gastélum previously worked as a defense attorney where she specialized in public entity defense. This experience provides her with the unique ability to analyze a case from both a defense and plaintiff's perspective. Ms. Gastélum is a Past President of the Mexican American Bar Association and the Latina Lawyers Bar Association. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Southern California, California La Raza Lawyers Association, Consumers Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, and the Consumer Attorneys of California. She received her B.A. at UCLA and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.



*Sandra D. Gonzalez, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP  
Austin, TX*

Sandra D. Gonzalez focuses her practice on international corporate compliance matters and more specifically, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Sandra assists clients around the world to design, build, and implement anti-corruption compliance policies and procedures. Sandra has advised clients on corruption issues in an array of scenarios including, assisting with internal investigations, designing and performing compliance assessments and risk assessments, performing compliance due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, training company personnel, and advising on relationships with third parties. Sandra is co-chair of Greenberg Traurig's Latino Affinity Group, Somos GT, and the pro bono liaison for Greenberg Traurig's Austin office. She is also an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association. Sandra earned her Bachelor of Science degree from MIT and J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law.



*Javier C. Grajeda, Attorney, Law Offices of Robert E. Wisniewski  
Phoenix, AZ*

Javier C. Grajeda is an attorney at the Law Offices of Robert E. Wisniewski. He is a Certified Specialist in Arizona Workers' Compensation Law. Javier is fluent in Spanish and exclusively represents injured workers. Javier served on the Board of Los Abogados, Arizona's Hispanic Bar Association. He is a graduate of the State Bar of Arizona's Bar Leadership Institute and a delegate of the American Bar Association Collaborative Bar Leadership Class of 2017. Javier serves as the treasurer for the Arizona Association of Lawyers for Injured Workers. He has published and lectured on the rights of undocumented workers. Javier is also a board member of Kids' Chance of Arizona, an organization that works to provide educational opportunity scholarships to children whose parents have been permanently disabled or killed as a result of an on the job injury.



*Siria L. Gutiérrez, Litigator, Bighorn Law  
Las Vegas, NV*

Siria L. Gutiérrez is a litigator at Bighorn Law representing people in personal injury and medical malpractice cases. Before switching to plaintiff's work, she defended Fortune 500 companies and their insureds. Siria clerked in the Eighth Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada for the Honorable Valorie J. Vega after earning her law degree from the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. She earned her bachelor's degree at UCLA. Siria values helping others and is a huge proponent of spreading knowledge. While in law school, she helped found the award-winning mentorship program *Huellas* ("Footprints"), a four-tier pipeline mentorship program designed to encourage minority students to enter the legal profession. Siria is an advocate for mental health awareness; co-hosts the Pivotal Moments Podcast; volunteers for various organizations aimed at helping and empowering women; and is an active member and past President of the Las Vegas Latino Bar Association.



*Marisa Hernández-Stern, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice's Worker Rights & Fair Labor Section  
Pasadena, CA*

Marisa Hernández-Stern is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice's Worker Rights & Fair Labor Section. Marisa graduated from Brown University and UCLA Law. After working at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, Marisa clerked for the Hon. Harry Pregerson. She previously worked at two private public interest law firms and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County.

Marisa served as the 2020 President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (MABA) and is the longtime chair, and current co-chair, of its Judicial Externship & Scholarship Program. She is a board member of the Brown University Alumni Association Board of Governors, Federal Bar Association-Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Bar Association's Litigation Section Executive Committee. Marisa has been recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Star and received the UCLA Academic Senate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award.



*Danielle C. Karczewski, Senior Counsel, Eisai Inc.  
Dover, NJ*

Danielle C. Karczewski is Senior Counsel at Eisai Inc., an oncology- and neurology-focused pharmaceutical company. At Eisai, Danielle focuses her practice on employment, research & development, privacy, ecosystem digital tools, and internal investigations. In addition, she

co-founded her department's Pro Bono Committee and its annual wills clinic for cancer patients. Prior to Eisai, Danielle was an employment litigation associate at Lowenstein Sandler P.C. She is Board Secretary for Beyond the Books Initiative, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides scholarships to students with financial need. Danielle is a proud member of the HNBA and Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, for which she formerly served as a Trustee for the HBA-NJ and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Union City American Dream Pipeline Program in addition to serving on other HBA-NJ committees. Danielle earned her B.A. in Journalism and Media Studies from Rutgers University, and her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law-Newark.



*Janneth Lanini , Senior Counsel, Reynolds Consumer Products  
Chicago, IL*

Janneth Lanini is a Senior Counsel at Reynolds Consumer Products, in her role, she primarily supports Procurement, Supply Chain, Logistics, and International business, regarding all aspects of commercial transactions, including the negotiation of complex agreements, as well as related legal, compliance and risk management matters. She serves as a trusted advisor and counsel's various business on compliance with applicable law, regulations and policies to drive brand and support strategic business initiatives. Prior to joining Reynolds, Janneth focused on regulatory compliance and ethics. She held roles at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Acero Charter Schools, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Janneth is the current President of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI). Janneth also serves as one of HNBA Region IX's Deputy, a liaison between HLAI and HNBA, and is a member of HNBA's Corporate Counsel Division. Janneth graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law and received her B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from Loyola University Chicago.



*Paul J. Leaf, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Los Angeles, CA*

Paul J. Leaf is a partner in Seyfarth Shaw's Los Angeles office, where he practices employment law and commercial litigation. Paul litigates wage and hour class and PAGA actions, discrimination and wrongful termination suits, and business disputes. He also advises clients about their employment policies and practices. Paul has been actively involved in the Hispanic community, including by serving as Deputy Regional President for the HNBA Southern California region, leading a pro bono case aimed at reforming how the Department of Veterans Affairs processes veterans' disability claims, and serving on the board of a charter high school in a disadvantaged community. Paul is deeply interested in

national security matters, having worked on defense issues for a think tank and published nearly 40 articles about U.S. foreign policy in national outlets, including *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, and *The National Interest*. Paul attended Pomona College (of the Claremont Colleges) and Stanford Law School.



*Marisol León, Deputy Attorney General, Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the CADOJ  
Los Angeles, CA*

Marisol León is a Deputy Attorney General with the Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the CADOJ. As a civil rights attorney representing the people of California, Marisol conducts large-scale investigations and litigates matters in which there is a pattern or practice of a violation of a civil rights law—with a particular focus on immigrants' rights, consumer protection, conditions of confinement in jails and immigration detention centers, police practices, and Title IX. Marisol also serves as an adjunct professor at Occidental College, where she teaches with the Critical Theory and Social Justice Department. Prior to law school, Marisol worked with social movements abroad and taught 6-12th grades. Marisol graduated cum laude from Yale College, received her master's with distinction from Loyola Marymount University, and earned her J.D. from Berkeley Law School. She currently serves on several education-related boards and as a mentor to first-generation students through multiple organizations, including the Legal Access Education Pipeline (LEAP).



*Karen Leyva-Drivin, Corporate Counsel, Bloomberg L.P.  
New York, NY*

Karen Leyva-Drivin is Corporate Counsel for Bloomberg L.P., where she handles complex transactional and legal matters. Previously, she provided legal services to Michael Bloomberg's presidential campaign and oversaw Hawkfish LLC's legal department. Prior to joining Bloomberg, Karen was a patent litigator with Ropes & Gray and Kenyon & Kenyon. Karen is actively involved in initiatives supporting diversity and inclusion, as well as the Hispanic community. She is a board member of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program, an HNBA National Past-President of the Young Lawyers Division, past Deputy Regional President for HNBA Region II, and most recently served as a Commissioner on the HNBA's Latina Commission. At Bloomberg, she served as the New York Chapter Lead of the Bloomberg Latinx Community (BLC) and Co-Chair of the Legal Department's Pro Bono Committee. Karen earned her J.D. from Fordham Law and a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering and Master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.



*Joseph L. Linares, Associate, Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP  
Newark, NJ*

Joseph Luis Linares is an associate with Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP in Newark, New Jersey. Joseph concentrates his practice on litigation, contract drafting and complex negotiations. Joseph also handles a multitude of dispute types including intellectual property, employment, insurance coverage, construction and torts, as well corporate/business law and transactional work. Joseph has advocated successfully in New Jersey's Appellate and Supreme Courts, and established New Jersey state precedent in a 2017 Appellate Division ruling.

Joseph is a servant of the Latino legal community holding Board positions for HNBA and the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Joseph is a past president of the Rutgers Law School Alumni Association, an adjunct professor for Seton Hall University, and has received recognition from the United States District Court (DNJ) for his *pro bono* work.

Joseph earned his BA from Villanova University, an MBA (*highest honors*) from Seton Hall University, and his JD (*cum laude*) from Rutgers Law School.



*Roger Maldonado, Associate, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  
Minneapolis, MN*

Roger Maldonado is an associate in Faegre Drinker's Minneapolis office and a member of the Finance and Restructuring Group. Roger provides counsel on a full range of financial matters and partners with clients to find effective, efficient solutions to complex finance and restructuring issues. He is an experienced navigator of complex issues in bankruptcy law, equipment leasing issues, receiverships, and related commercial and financial litigation. Roger is actively involved in the Hispanic legal community, having served the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association ("MHBA"), as its President, and as a long-time Board Member of multiple MHBA committees. This includes co-chairing a task force which resulted in the creation of the Diversity Report Committee—composed of numerous Minnesota affinity bars — to gather, create and publish a report highlighting the diverse attorney data from the largest law firms in Minnesota in an effort to promote the hiring, retaining, and promotion of diverse attorneys.



*Rudy A. Rodas, Associate Counsel, Office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy  
Union City, NJ*

Rudy A. Rodas serves as Associate Counsel in the Office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. As a member of the Governor's Authorities Unit, Rudy is responsible for overseeing several independent state authorities, such as the Delaware River Port Authority, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, and State Agriculture Development Committee. He advises on their board governance matters and managerial, fiscal, and policy operations. Additionally, Rudy is a recognized civic leader. He is a former Immigration Committee Chair of the Latino Action Network and a 2017 New Leaders Council Fellow. In 2020, Rudy founded Latino Greeks for Biden & Harris, a national coalition of Latino fraternity and sorority members that engaged Latino voters in support of the Biden Presidential Campaign.

Rudy earned his B.B.A. in International Business from The George Washington University and his J.D. from Rutgers Law School. Rudy is the proud son of Guatemalan immigrants. His greatest privilege in life is raising his two daughters with his wife.



*Conchita Valenzuela, Deputy General Counsel, Confie  
Irvine, CA*

Conchita Valenzuela serves as Deputy General Counsel of the Confie group of companies, the largest independent auto insurance brokerage in the United States. Conchita began her career in the New York City headquarters of a global law firm, where she represented and advised private and publicly held insurance companies in connection with regulatory matters, mergers and acquisitions, and structured finance transactions. Conchita is Vice Chair of the HNBA's Corporate Counsel Division and a board member of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in support of foster youth and is a member of Women for Girls in support of Girls, Inc. of Orange County. Conchita received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in New York and California. Conchita is a first generation college and law school graduate, raised in the border town of San Ysidro, CA. She enjoys weekend Lego building and outdoor adventuring with her family.



*Heidy Vaquerano, Partner, Fox Rothschild LLP  
Los Angeles, CA*

Heidy Vaquerano is an entertainment law partner in the Los Angeles office of Fox Rothschild, a national law firm. Named to Billboard Magazine's list of "Top Music Lawyers," her clients include Grammy nominated musicians and independent record labels, as well as actors and writers, film and television producers, influencers and tech startups. Heidy also reviews and negotiates agreements for mobile and web applications, e-commerce providers and multi-channel networks. Heidy teaches at several Los Angeles-area colleges, designing courses that integrate the law as applied to technology, entertainment and new media. She has spoken as a panelist at MIDEM in Cannes, Silicon Beach Fest, Techweek LA and Innovate LA. She was the Managing Director of Girls in Tech LA and serves on the advisory boards of SXSW Pitch and LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's WiSTEM LA initiative. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Heidy earned her J.D. at Southwestern Law School.



*Jessica K. Velez, Associate, Johnson & Bell  
Chicago, IL*

Jessica K. Velez is an Associate at Johnson & Bell in Chicago, IL. She concentrates her practice in construction law with a focus on premises liability and general negligence cases. Ms. Velez also defends public utilities in a wide range of matters involving serious bodily injury. She has extensive experience in all stages of personal injury litigation and trials. Ms. Velez is co-chair of Johnson & Bell's Diversity Committee, member/past president of the associate board for Just The Beginning – A Pipeline Organization, and serves as a Commissioner for the Hispanic National Bar Association's Latina Commission. Ms. Velez earned her J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law. While in law school, she was a judicial extern for the Honorable Ruben Castillo in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She was also a member of the Chicago-Kent Trial Team and volunteers as a guest judge for the team.



*Paulina Vera, Legal Associate, Professorial Lecturer in Law, GW Law Immigration Clinic  
Washington, DC*

Paulina Vera supervises GW Law Immigration Clinic students and provides legal representation to asylum-seekers and immigrants facing deportation. She is also a

Professorial Lecturer In Law and has taught Immigration Law I. Paulina previously served as the only Immigration Staff Attorney at the non-profit, CASA de Maryland. She earned her BA in International Affairs from GW and her JD from GW Law.

Paulina is a board member for the Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC), the HBA-DC Foundation and LEAD Latinoamerica. Paulina is also the co-chair of the ImmiGRANT Legal Defense Fund of HNBA.

Her passion project is managing an online community called Hermanas In The Law, where she features Latinas thinking about law school, Latina law students, and Latina lawyers and provides resources for Latina legal professionals.

Paulina is originally from Tucson, AZ and is the proud daughter of two immigrants.



*Laura Zapiain is Legal Counsel in MGM Resorts International  
Las Vegas, NV*

Laura Zapiain is Legal Counsel in MGM Resorts International, an S&P 500® global entertainment company. Laura counsels senior business executives on corporate transactions and regulatory affairs (including FCPA and privacy). Before joining MGM, Laura served as VP of Compliance in a Silicon-Valley backed healthcare tech startup. She began her career in private practice at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in Washington, DC, and later at Holland & Hart in Las Vegas, NV. Throughout her career, Laura has remained involved in the local Hispanic legal community, serving as a board member on the Hispanic Bar Association of DC and most recently, as VP of Membership in the Las Vegas Latino Bar Association. Laura earned her B.A. in literature from Claremont McKenna College and her J.D. from Stanford Law School.