



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Maricela V. Alvarado,
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Senior Associate

Maricela Ventura Alvarado is a Senior Associate Attorney in Monty & Ramirez LLP's immigration division focusing on Business Immigration. Her experience includes a variety of employment-based and family-based immigration matters including nonimmigrant and immigrant visas, permanent residency, and citizenship.

Maricela is the daughter of Mexican immigrant parents and she was raised in Splendora, Texas, a small town located in Montgomery County. Growing up in a small town with a very small community of other immigrant families, Maricela aspired to work in a field that could help people like her parents and her community. She attended the University of North Texas and earned a degree in Economics in 2012. While attending college, Maricela was drawn into the nonprofit sector and decided to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service of America), a national service program designed to alleviate poverty. As a VISTA, Maricela worked with a nonprofit in Tarrant County serving Homeless Families and Victims of Domestic Violence. Once completing her year of service as a VISTA, Maricela moved to Houston, TX to continue working in the nonprofit sector for a local charity and attend South Texas College of Law where she earned her Juris Doctor in 2017.

Maricela obtained her Juris Doctor working full-time in the nonprofit sector for her first 2 years of law school. She later joined Monty & Ramirez as a law clerk for the remaining time of her law school career. Maricela chose to practice immigration because she wanted to be someone people like her parents could trust due to her understanding of the disconnection small town communities have from the abundance of resources and services big cities have to offer. Today she strives towards reaching to those communities and individuals as a resource they can trust for their legal matters. Her time as a law clerk in our Immigration division developed her skills and understanding in immigration law and her experience in the nonprofit sector further developed her compassion and civic mindedness in the profession.

Education

- South Texas College of Law, J.D., December 2017
- University of North Texas, B.A. in Economics., May 2012

Admitted to Practice

- State Bar of Texas, May 2018

Professional Activities

- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Mexican American Bar Association of Houston
- American Bar Association

Awards/Accomplishments

- South Texas College of Law Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Dean's List Honor Recipient at South Texas College of Law Summer, 2016