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## Maricela V. Alvarado

*Partner*

Maricela Ventura Alvarado is a Partner 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.

A majority of Maricela's practice falls under the areas of employment and investment immigration representing small to large private and public businesses, private to public healthcare providers, primary, secondary and higher education institutions and more in their immigration and employment compliance issues.

Maricela 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. 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

- Houston Association of Women Attorneys, Board Member
- Houston Lawyer Referral Service, Board Member
- U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce - Houston/The Woodlands/Gulf Coast, Board Member
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Hispanic Bar Association
- Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber

### Awards/Accomplishments

- Best Lawyers® "Ones to Watch" List, 2023 & 2024
- Dean's List Honor Recipient at South Texas College of Law Summer, 2016