

Gabriela Cruz

EDUCATION

Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana

J.D.

May 2021

Activities: Student Attorney at the Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic, Research Assistant and Interpreter for Prof. Laila L. Hlass, President of the Tulane University Latinx Law Student Association.

University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida

B.A. in History

May 2018

Activities: Golden Key International Honor Society; Dean's List.

Universidad Panamericana Law School, Mexico City, Mexico

Licenciatura en Derecho Candidate

August 2012 – June 2014

EXPERIENCE

Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA

September 2021-August 2025

Staff Attorney and Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at the Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic

Represented clients in humanitarian immigration claims such as affirmative and defensive asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U and T visas; represented workers under the H-2A visa category in U visa and DALE applications as a result of workplace violations, collaborating with NLRB leadership to ensure employer compliance with settlement agreements; jointly supervised students in representing asylees and immigrant youth; assisted the clinic director in organizing and supervising know your rights presentations by students at detention centers in Louisiana; offered detailed feedback to students through clinic seminars, case rounds, simulations, and mock hearings; planned and delivered lecture on protected characteristics for Asylum Law class; created a specialized intake process for immigrant youth; independently managed docket; served as the primary liaison with community organizations that support youth; drafted client declarations and pleadings, prepared clients to deliver witness testimony, and presented oral arguments in immigration court and juvenile courts across Louisiana.

Immigrant Rights Clinics, New Orleans, LA

Student Attorney

August 2020-May 2021

Drafted case plans and interview plans; drafted and filed parole requests for detained client in Louisiana; drafted and filed pleadings in the juvenile court for a youth client; prepared youth client and their guardian to testify in juvenile court, conducted direct examination of witness and delivered closing statement to the juvenile court; corresponded with ICE officers, personnel at the detention center, juvenile and immigration court; analyzed data of over 499 Louisiana habeas cases filed in federal court from 2010 to 2020 and co-authored the clinic's report on prolonged and punitive immigrant detention in Louisiana; collaborated with clinic partner and offered peer feedback to fellow student attorneys at the clinic.

Miguel Elias, APLC, New Orleans, LA

Law Clerk

October 2020-May 2021

Drafted declarations for defensive and affirmative asylum applications; prepared and submitted immigration applications and petitions to government agencies and immigration court; drafted

pleadings and motions for juvenile courts; conducted legal research on immigration laws, regulations, and case precedents to support ongoing cases; communicated with clients to gather necessary information and updated them on case progress; prepared clients for interviews with immigration officials by conducting mock interviews and providing guidance on questions they may face; organized and maintained case files.

Kurzban, Kurzban, Tetzeli & Pratt, Miami, FL

Summer Law Clerk

May 2020-July 2020

Researched and drafted memoranda on requirements for employment-based immigrant petitions and immigrant investor visas; drafted and prepared requests for evidence for federal agencies on pending petitions; reviewed and organized clients' files; met with supervising attorney to discuss case progress and strategy.

Honorable Richard Hersch, Eleven Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami FL

Judicial Intern

July 2019-August 2019

Researched and drafted memoranda on case law and legal precedents relevant to cases before the court, including warrantless searches and seizures, post-conviction motions, and habeas corpus; observed court hearings, trials, and sentencing to understand courtroom procedures and application of the law.

Honorable Antonio Arzola, Eleven Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami, FL.

Judicial Intern

May 2019-June 2019

Researched substantive and procedural issues including pure discovery bill, impleader, settlement setoffs and joint tortfeasors; drafted orders for the judge on motions for summary judgment; observed and assisted with trial preparation and courtroom proceeding, attended voir dire procedures.

PUBLICATIONS

"FALSE HOPES": OVER 100,000 IMMIGRANT YOUTH TRAPPED IN SIJS BACKLOG (2023) (with Rachel Leya Davidson, Laila Hlass, and Katia Levina)

NO END IN SIGHT: PROLONGED AND PUNITIVE IMMIGRANT DETENTION IN LOUISIANA (2021) (with Immigrant Rights Clinic Students, Prof. Laila Hlass and Mary Yanik).

THE PURSUIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION: A CLAIM TO EXTEND FEDERAL STUDENT AID TO SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE APPROVED YOUTH (working draft)

PROFESSIONAL & BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Admitted to the Bar in Louisiana

Admitted to practice before the Western District of Louisiana

Member, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association

TRAINING, ACCREDITATION, & SKILLS

Managing to Change the World, 2021 (Management Center)

Native proficiency in Spanish.

Elementary proficiency in French