



SANDRA PEREZ, ESQ.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Seasoned trial attorney with 26 years of diversified litigation experience in State and Federal Courts; experience as both, defense attorney and former Assistant District Attorney, with a concentration in criminal-immigration law. Life-long advocate for the preservation of Constitutional Rights through litigation and the elevation of women's rights.

EDUCATION

Hofstra University School of Law | L.I., NY | Juris Doctor
Fordham University | Bronx, NY | Bachelor of Arts
Oxford University | United Kingdom | Scholar, Political Science

BAR CREDENTIALS

Admitted to practice in New York State, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department. Federal Court Admissions: United States Southern District of New York; and United States Eastern District of New York.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Perez Law Offices PLLC, Queens, NY

02/2021-Present

Managing Attorney

- Represent individuals facing prosecution in Supreme, Criminal Courts of New York and Federal Court.
- Litigate felony charges, misdemeanors and post-conviction motions for persons falsely accused.
- Represent victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other gender crimes to obtain immigration status.
- Conduct bond hearings and removal cases at Immigration Court.
- Petition for U.S. Citizenship; unaccompanied minors in the U.S.; and file for family re-unification.

Law Office of Usman B. Ahmad, LLP., Long Island City, NY

08/2019-02/2021

Associate Attorney

- Conducted hearings and trials in federal court.
 - Interpreted the N.Y. Penal Code for immigration cases involving criminal arrests.
 - Successfully litigated bond motions for the release of individuals and families from federal custody.
 - Drafted appeals and argued motions before the Immigration Courts.
 - Successfully obtained Asylum for individuals facing persecution based on religion, sexual orientation and gender-based persecution.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Youman, Madeo & Fasano, LLP, NYC
Associate Attorney

07/2018-03/2019

- Litigated a high volume of cases in federal court.
- Filed petitions for adjudication of U visas for crime victims.
- Successfully litigated in Family Court on behalf of minor children to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
- Drafted and filed provisional waivers to unify spouses and families in the United States.
- Obtained rulings after trial, granting Cancellation of Removal for numerous parents of American children suffering from serious medical conditions.

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp, NYC
Coordinating Immigration Attorney

02/2017-04/2018

- Supervised the Immigration Department at not-for-profit organization in a predominantly Spanish-speaking community.
- Trained attorneys and paralegal staff at two ActionNYC sites.
- Represented indigent persons faced with past criminal convictions, immigration, Violence against Women's Act cases, DACA, and TPS.
- Successfully obtained full accreditation for the organization from the Board of Immigration Appeals.
- Collaborated with senators, community leaders, churches, high schools, the NYPD, and conducted bilingual Know-your-Rights presentations.
- Authored a U-Visa training manual for the pro-bono representation of crime victims, and delivered a presentation for private law firms in collaboration with the New York Lawyers for Public Interest, Goldman Sachs, and Debevoise Plimpton.
- Reviewed proposed legislation and testified before the New York City Council on the impact of DACA and the future of DREAMERS.



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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

New York County Defenders, NYC

06/2011-07/2015

Attorney-in-Charge, Criminal-Immigration Unit

- Created the organization's first criminal-immigration unit, pursuant to Padilla v. Kentucky.
- Authored practice advisories for 50 defense attorneys.
- Briefed prosecutors and judges on the relevant federal legal issues affecting pending criminal cases.
- Presented criminal practice seminars for all attorneys and authored training materials for Bar-approved CLE credits.
- Acted as sole point person on call, providing legal advice to attorneys at arraignments.
- Served on the New York State Bar, Office of Indigent Legal Services and contributed in drafting the Best Practices protocol for the Representation of Non-Citizens.
- Provided guidance on pending criminal court cases for members of the Fordham Law Clinic.

Perez Law Offices & Associates, P.C., Kew Gardens, N.Y.

02/1997-06/2011

Managing Litigation Attorney

- Tried numerous cases in State and Federal Courts.
- Successfully argued a Writ of Habeas Corpus before the Appellate Division, Second Department.
- Drafted, litigated, and successfully argued post-conviction motions.
- Cross-examined medical, law enforcement, forensics, and other experts during trial.
- Certified to serve on the Assigned Counsel Plan for the Second Department.
- Mentored young men charged with crimes to avoid recidivism.
- Guest speaker/panelist for the Queens County Bar Association's Criminal Law Series.
- Served on the Judiciary Committee for the Queens County Bar Association.

Office of the Kings County District Attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y.

11/1994-02/1997

Assistant District Attorney

- Litigated a large volume of criminal cases, including robbery, weapons, burglary, assault.
 - Interviewed crime victims and witnesses.
 - Investigated crime scenes.
 - Assisted victims of domestic violence and sex crimes.
 - Interviewed police officers and drafted criminal complaints.
 - Mentored school children through the Choices and Consequences program.
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