

CHRISTOPHER D. PINEDA

4701 Beaver Pond Dr. • Brownsville, Texas 78520 • 956-455-7750 • cdpineda37@gmail.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Brownsville, TX Apr. 2014-Present

Represent the United States in federal court in civil litigation involving immigration-related claims, eminent domain, torts, civil rights claims, employment discrimination and retaliation claims, FOIA, and bankruptcy proceedings. Handle all aspects of assigned cases, including pleadings, discovery, depositions, dispositive motions, hearings, oral argument, alternative dispute resolution, trials, appellate brief writing, and oral argument before the Fifth Circuit.

Associate Attorney, Willette & Guerra, L.L.P., Brownsville, TX Aug. 2009-Apr. 2014

Handled all aspects of trial and appellate civil litigation, in state and federal court, at a leading insurance defense law firm in South Texas. Responsibilities included factual investigation, legal research, drafting pleadings and dispositive motions, conducting discovery and depositions, oral argument in state and federal district courts, trial, appellate brief writing, and oral argument before the Texas Thirteenth Court of Appeals.

Summer Clerk, U.S. District Court, S.D. Tex., Brownsville, TX Summer 2007

Drafted legal memoranda for U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen of the Southern District of Texas-Brownsville Division.

Summer Fellow, Mass. Exec. Office of Housing/Economic Dev., Boston, MA Summer 2007

Served as chief aide to the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing/Economic Development. Responsibilities included attending meetings with interest groups, briefing the Assistant Secretary, and overseeing development of Governor Deval Patrick's briefing materials regarding economic development proposals.

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA Juris Doctor, 2009

Concentration/Certificate in Litigation and Dispute Resolution; Fellowship, Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy; American Bar Association (ABA) Judicial Internship Opportunity Program; Boston University Public Interest Law Journal Member; Rule 3:03 Certified Student Attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services (civil litigation clinic); President, Boston University Latin American Law Student Association.

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Gov't, Cambridge, MA Master in Public Policy, 2005

Minor Concentration in Negotiation Analysis; Class Representative, Harvard Kennedy School Student Government; Honorable Mention, Spring Exercise Mock White House Briefing Competition; "Most Cool Under Fire" Award, Advanced Workshop in Multiparty Negotiation & Resolution; Co-Coordinator, 7th Annual Harvard Latino Law, Policy, & Business Conference.

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX Bachelor of Arts, 2001

Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Tracking Cultures Program (study abroad in Mexico, Spain, & Morocco); Fellowship, Public Policy and International Affairs Summer Institute (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor); Student Representative, UT Austin Recruitment & Retention Advisory Committee; Co-Coordinator, 10th Annual Tejano Student Unity Weekend Conference; Co-Director, UT Austin Latino Leadership Council; Vice-President, Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity.

ADDITIONAL LAW-RELATED EXPERIENCE

- **Bar Admissions:** State Bar of Texas (2009); U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas (2010); U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit (2017)
- **CLEs & Publications:** Moderator, *Implicit Bias: Views from the Bench*, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting (2021); Co-Author, *Legislative Update 2013*, State Bar of Texas 25th Annual Suing & Defending Governmental Entities Seminar (2013); Author, *Recent State Cases of Interest*, Texas Municipal League Intergov'tl Risk Pool 21st Annual Attorney Workshop (2011).

COMMUNITY / PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- **State Bar of Texas-Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Member 2020-2021.
- **State Bar of Texas-Hispanic Issues Section:** Treasurer 2021-2022; CLE Committee Co-Chair 2020-present; Council Member 2019-2021.
- **State Bar of Texas-Law Focused Education Committee:** Advisory Member 2018-2019.
- **Federal Bar Association-South Texas Chapter:** Brownsville Division Director, 2018-2019.
- **Cameron County Bar Association:** Immediate Past President 2017-2018; President 2016-2017; President-Elect 2015-2016; Vice President 2014-2015; Treasurer 2013-2014.
- **Cameron County Young Lawyers Association:** Director 2011-2014; Secretary 2010-2011.
- **City of Brownsville Citizen Advisory Committee:** Appointed Member 2013-2014.
- **Brownsville Adult Literacy Center:** Board Member 2012-2014.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **State Bar of Texas-Hispanic Issues Section Chair's Award**, 2020.
- **Southern District of Texas U.S. Attorney Awards-Civil Division**, 2019 & 2020.
- **State Bar of Texas LeadershipSBOT**, Class of 2017-2018. Selected as one of twenty attorneys from around the State of Texas for a State Bar leadership program.
- **Outstanding Cameron County Bar Officer Award**, 2016.
- **Texas Rising Stars List, Super Lawyers-Civil Litigation Defense**, 2014.
- **Leadership Brownsville Class XXVI**, 2010-2011.
- **Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy**, 2007. Selected as one of twelve law students in the Boston-area for a law and public policy fellowship.
- **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellowship**, 2001-2002. Selected as one of twenty graduates nationwide to work in Washington, D.C. for a public policy fellowship.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Researcher, Harvard Univ., Kennedy School of Gov't, Cambridge, MA Aug. 2005-Aug. 2006
Drafted policy briefs and published research papers for the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation on various topics, including housing and public-private partnerships.

Policy Analyst, Texas House of Representatives, Austin, TX Aug. 2002-Jul. 2003
Drafted policy briefs for a legislative caucus (Mexican American Legislative Caucus), met with interest groups, and coordinated the inaugural class of Moreno/Rangel legislative fellows.

Policy Analyst, Mex. Am. Legal Defense and Educ. Fund, Washington, DC Sep. 2001-Jul. 2002
Attended Congressional hearings and drafted policy briefs on legislation after the 9/11 attacks.