

**ALEXA K. PÉREZ**

Assistant Professor of Law  
Drake University Law School  
2608 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311  
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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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**Drake University Law School, Des Moines, IA**

*Assistant Professor of Law*, July 2023-Present

Courses: Civil Procedure  
Evidence

Service: Faculty Appointments Committee (2023-2024)  
Curriculum Committee (2024-Present)  
Judicial Clerkship Committee (2023-Present)  
La Alianza Faculty Advisor (2024-Present)  
C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court Faculty Liaison (2023-Present)

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**EDUCATION**

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**The University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, IL**

*Juris Doctor*, June 2017

Honors: Pro Bono Award of Excellence (most pro bono hours in class)

Activities: Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights Clinic, Kirkland & Ellis Corporate Lab, Latino Law Student Association

**University of Florida, Gainesville, FL**

*Bachelor of Arts in English* (minor in Linguistics), *summa cum laude*, December 2013

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Sigma Tau Delta*, Hauptman Gold Medal (outstanding senior award); Dean's List; President's Honor Roll; Lipsky Award (Dept. of English Scholarship); Florida Bright Futures Scholarship; Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship

Thesis: *Cuban Exile History and Marielito Deviance*

Research: Examining Code-Switching Performance Theories: Copula Choice in Spanish Among Cuban Heritage Speakers

- Underlying research became the basis for book chapter in *Cuban Spanish Dialectology: Variation, Contact and Change*, Alejandro Cuza, Georgetown University Press, 2017

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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*Admitted to Practice in Illinois and Iowa*

**United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa**, Des Moines, IA  
*Special Assistant United States Attorney, 2022-2023*

**Sidley Austin LLP**, Chicago, IL

*Litigation Managing Associate, 2020-2022, 2017-2019; Summer Associate, 2016*

Awards: Federal Bar Association's Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service

Service: Associate Diversity Council  
Women of Color Initiative Leader  
Sidley 1L Diversity Mentorship Program  
University of Chicago Recruiting Team

**United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**, Chicago, IL  
*Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Edmond Chang, 2019-2020; Judicial Intern, 2015*

**Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights**, Chicago, IL  
*Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Fellow, 2017*

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**PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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*A Critical Analysis of Rap Shield Laws*, 110 Cornell Law Review (forthcoming 2025)  
Selected for presentation at Vanderbilt University Law School, 2024 Evidence Summer Workshop; University of Minnesota Law School, 2024 Women in Law Teaching Works-in-Progress; and Excited Utterance Podcast

*The Plain Smell Doctrine After Marijuana Legalization and Decriminalization* (work in progress)

*The Black Lives Matter Movement's Implications for Shareholder Derivative Litigation*, THE AMLAW LITIGATION DAILY, October 28, 2020 (co-author), available at <https://www.law.com/litigationdaily/2020/10/28/the-black-lives-matter-movements-implications-for-shareholder-derivative-litigation/>

*Buyer's Remorse or Material Adverse Effect? A New Wave of Litigation in the COVID-19 World*, THE AMLAW LITIGATION DAILY, May 28, 2020 (co-author), available at <https://www.law.com/litigationdaily/2020/05/28/buyers-remorse-or-material-adverse-effect-a-new-wave-of-litigation-in-the-covid-19-world/>

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**PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

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Vanderbilt University Law School, 2024 Evidence Summer Workshop, May 16, 2024  
Presented *A Critical Analysis of Rap Shield Laws*

University of Minnesota Law School, 2024 Women-in-Law Teaching Workshop, June 11, 2024  
Presented *A Critical Analysis of Rap Shield Laws*

Excited Utterance Podcast, October 14, 2024  
Discussed *A Critical Analysis of Rap Shield Laws*

CLE Presentation, C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court, November 19, 2024  
Presented *A Critical Analysis of Rap Shield Laws*

The University of Chicago Law School, “Clerking on the Northern District of Illinois and Seventh Circuit,” Spring 2020 and 2021

The University of Chicago Law School, “Pro Bono in Big Law,” Spring 2019

The University of Chicago Law School, Latino Law Student’s Association, “Succeeding as a Big Law Associate,” Spring 2019

Sidley Austin LLP, “Social Justice Movements: Legal and Practical Considerations for Corporations,” February 2021, available at <https://www.sidley.com/en/insights/events/2021/02/social-justice-movements-legal-and-practical-considerations-for-corporations>

Sidley Austin LLP, “Hispanic Heritage Roundtable,” October 2020 and 2021, available at <https://vimeo.com/465950009>

The American Bar Association, Judicial Internship Opportunity Program (JIOP), “Tools to Succeed as JIOP Intern,” Summer 2020 and 2021

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#### **PUBLIC SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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Iowa Board of Corrections, Des Moines, IA  
*Board Member* (2023- Present)

C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court, Des Moines, IA  
*Master* (2023-Present)

Polk County Bar Association, Des Moines, IA  
*Member* (2024-Present)

The American Bar Association’s Judicial Internship Opportunity Program (JIOP), Chicago, IL  
*Regional Leader* (2020-2022); *Alumni Mentor* (2017-2021)

The University of Chicago’s Latino Law Student Association, Chicago, IL  
*Alumni Mentor* (2017-2021)

Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago, IL  
*Young Professionals Advisory Council* (2020-2021)

Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago, IL  
*Election Protection Program Call Center Captain (2017-2020)*

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**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

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Iowa, 2024

Illinois, 2017

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa

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**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Native Spanish speaker proficient in reading, writing, and speaking