

A professional portrait of Sarah K. Cartagena, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black blazer, standing in a modern office hallway with a staircase in the background. 

## Sarah K. Cartagena

Chicago

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## Overview

**Sarah brings a diverse background in law, policy and international service to her litigation practice. She supports clients in commercial disputes by researching and analyzing complex legal issues, drafting motions and briefs, and assisting with discovery.**

Before becoming an attorney, Sarah worked as an immigration policy analyst, where she monitored state and federal cases, engaged with policymakers and developed community outreach initiatives to inform advocacy efforts. This experience taught her how to navigate complex policy matters and collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders.

Sarah also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar for two and a half years, teaching English and leading community development projects. Immersed in a new culture and language, she learned to think resourcefully, stay composed under pressure and adapt to challenging circumstances. That same adaptability and resilience now guide her approach to the law.

During law school, Sarah gained meaningful judicial experience through externships with the Honorable Judge John Z. Lee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the Honorable Judge Franklin U. Valderrama of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She also participated in DePaul's Moot Court Society and Cornell Law School's International Human Rights Legal Clinic. A diligent and thoughtful problem-solver, she is dedicated to helping clients achieve their goals and effect positive change.

# Credentials

## EDUCATION

- DePaul University College of Law, 2025, J.D., *summa cum laude*
  - Order of the Coif
  - Executive Editor, *DePaul Law Review* Volume 74
  - Third Place Overall and Second Place Respondent Brief, 2025 Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition
  - Secretary, Latino Law Student Association
  - CALI Excellence for the Future Award for Legal Writing I
  - Recipient, Women's Bar Foundation Scholarship
  - Recipient, Diversity Scholarship Foundation Scholarship
  - Recipient, Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship Fund Scholarship
- Cornell University, 2019, MPA, concentration in Human Rights and Social Justice
  - President, Latin American Student Society
- University of Illinois, B.S., Psychology, minor in Italian
  - Psi Chi National Honor Society

## BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois