

MARINA CORDOVA

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PROFILE

Skilled attorney capable of performing quasi-judicial duties presiding over disputes between participants and DVR in accordance with the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Efficient and collaborative management of pre-hearing conferences to control the docket, evaluate proposed evidence, consider expert witness testimony, determine issues, and rule on preliminary motions. Hears and evaluates testimony and evidence *de novo* to determine case facts, maintains order and decorum, disposes of objections expressed, permits questioning and cross-examination of witnesses and ensures due process. Adept researcher and writer, with the ability to fully address all legal arguments

EXPERIENCE

The Cordova Law Firm, LLC, Santa Fe, NM

Solo Practitioner, September 2009-Present

- ♦ Provide legal services in public policy, general civil litigation, disability law, estate planning and administration, trusts and special needs trusts, foreclosure defense, and domestic relations.

Child's Voice, Bell County, TX

Director and Founder, June 2004-August 2008

- ♦ Established special education advocacy program to serve parents and their disabled children in local school districts. Created a network of support and resources for parents.
- ♦ Created a collaborative environment between families, students, and school personnel. Improved access to tests, classroom materials, and school facilities.
- ♦ Organized and moderated seminars to educate administrators, teachers, and the public concerning special education laws and instructional methodology.

Lone Star Legal Aid, Belton, TX

Legal Intern, December 2003-May 2004

- ♦ Assessed client needs and provided information to clients in all aspects of civil litigation, including writing pleadings, briefs, and various documents in the areas of domestic relations, housing, and estate planning.
- ♦ Second-chaired trials concerning domestic relations and domestic violence.
- ♦ Assisted colleagues with pro se divorce clinic.

Massachusetts Superior Court, Boston, MA

Judicial Intern to Justice Raymond Brassard, March 2003-May 2003

- ♦ Researched and interpreted state rules, regulations, and court rulings. Applied legal precedent to facts to assist in the establishment of opinions for criminal and civil cases. Prepared opinions for the judge.

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Division, Boston, MA

Legal Intern, September 2002-November 2002

- ♦ Evaluated eligibility of claims for Attorney General jurisdiction. Informed clients of their legal rights and responsibilities.
- ♦ Composed pleadings, briefs, and discovery materials for litigation concerning violent and hate crimes.
- ♦ Researched and drafted Attorney General opinions. Resolved public grievances.

National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, Washington, DC; Hartford, CT

Director of Government Relations, January 2000-May 2000

- ♦ Oversaw the passage and implementation of state and federal policies and programs. Policy issues included education, Medicaid, social security, transportation, and technology. Testified before legislative hearings.
- ♦ Spoke at conferences and seminars. Organized, directed, and educated members of non-profit organizations and the public how to advocate for the passage of state and federal laws.
- ♦ Researched and analyzed existing law; drafted new legislation, state rules, regulations, and fiscal initiatives. Established a coalition between several organizations.

EXPERIENCE

Senator John Fonfara, Connecticut General Assembly, Hartford, CT

Legislative Intern, January 1999 to December 1999

- ♦ Analyzed and planned implementation of Senator's legislative and fiscal initiatives. Reviewed and wrote state regulations. Represented Senator on Braille Literary Task Force.

United States Senate, Washington, DC

Intern to Senator Chris Dodd, June 1997 to August 1997

- ♦ Represented Senator on Subcommittee on Children and Families.
- ♦ Researched, interpreted, and summarized public policy for hearings related to children, families, Medicaid, health care, and education.
- ♦ Prepared statistical reports and memoranda; responded to constituent inquiries; met with grassroots lobbyists; and summarized lobbyist requests for the Senator.
- ♦ Legal topics included Medicare, Medicaid, FDA, health care, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation, ADA, Head Start, Social Security, and TANF.

EDUCATION

Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, May 2004

- ♦ Activities: Student Member, American Bar Association; Tobacco Control Legal Clinic; Stanley-Jones Clean Slate Project

Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Elementary Education, May 1999

- ♦ Activities: Congressional and Presidential Campaign Assistant; Academic Awards: William Cotter Congressional Scholarship; Nominee, Watson Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER WORK

- ♦ Director, Alliance for Justice, Present
- ♦ Member, State Bar of New Mexico, Young Lawyers Division, Present
- ♦ Member, State Bar of New Mexico, Attorneys Serving Individuals with Disabilities
- ♦ Member, American Bar Association, Present
- ♦ Board of Directors, Parents Reaching Out, Present
- ♦ Parent Training and Information Center Representative, State Rehabilitation Council, NM Commission for the Blind, Present
- ♦ Member Representative, State IDEA Advisory Panel, June 2009 and September 2009
- ♦ Vice-President, NM Parents of Blind Children, Present
- ♦ Chairman, Braille Literacy Task Force, Present
- ♦ Editor, *The Batterer as Parent*, by Lundy Bancroft, a University Casebook Series, Sage Publications, 2002