



**Martha Laura Garcia Izaguirre  
-American Studies Certificate)**

**Cum Laude**

Martha Laura has devoted her career to fighting for immigrant and refugee rights. This decision was motivated by her own experience as an immigrant in the U.S. and in Spain.

She graduated cum laude with a degree in Political Science in 2012. After spending a year in Mexico and obtaining a graduate degree in Journalism through the Universidad Europea de Miguel Cervantes, she returned to the US. While she always planned to work with immigrants, her own experience of having to re-apply for residency - after getting all her documents stolen - showed her how impactful lawyers can be in these communities. This led her to pursue a degree in law.

In May of 2017 Martha Laura graduated from Loyola University Chicago-School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree. During her time in law school, Martha Laura volunteered with school groups that serve the immigrant community, Coalition and the Public Interest Law Society. She interned at organizations that serve and empower immigrant communities across Illinois, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Community Activism Law Alliance, the Chicago Legal Clinic, and Chicago Legal Aid.

After graduating from law school, Martha Laura accepted a two year Equal Justice Works fellowship at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For the past two years, Martha Laura has been representing immigrants in immigration court and in administrative hearings. Her work is primarily focused on representing asylum seekers, refugees, survivors of violent crimes, unaccompanied minors, and survivors of

human trafficking. When she is not directly representing clients, she does outreach and advocacy work to help educate, empower, and support the immigrant community and its allies. In September of 2019, Martha Laura will transition from her position as an Equal Justice Work fellow to that of a supervising attorney at the organization.

We are grateful for her work and proud to call her a graduate of SLU-Madrid.