

EDUCATION

Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, MI
Juris Doctor, May 2002

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI

Bachelor of Arts in both Spanish and Latin American and Iberian Studies, May 1998

- Unión Puertorriqueña – President, August 1997 – May 1998
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid, August 1996 – May 1997

EXPERIENCE

Cabrera Law Office, Milwaukee, WI

Immigration, Attorney, 10/2009 – Present

- Sole practitioner of immigration and nationality law office focused primarily on family-based immigration, naturalization, petitions relating to victims of abuse, and deportation defense
- Conduct educational immigration workshops in collaboration with community non-profits explaining common obstacles, myths, and remedies as these relate to undocumented immigrants

David F. Vedder, P.A., Ormond Beach, FL

Immigration Attorney, 06/2008 – 06/2009 (employee) 06/2009-10/2009 (contractor)

- Met with prospective clients for consultations and developed new legal services agreements
- Represented individuals at USCIS interviews and immigration court Master/Individual hearings
- Composed briefs for extreme hardship waivers, motions to reopen to USCIS, appeals to AAO, motions to reopen/reconsider/terminate for immigration court and appeals to the BIA
- Researched eligibility for employment-based immigration applications and waivers of foreign residency requirement, including J-1, H1-B, H2-B, H-3, R-1, etc.
- Drafted federal litigation briefs involving naturalization applications and removal order appeals
- Conducted immigration workshops explaining immigration procedures and benefits available as well as disqualifying factors to Spanish speaking individuals and families in the community

Law Office of Marisabel Cabrera, P.A., Coral Gables, FL

Immigration Attorney, 01/2008 – 05/2008

- Prepared client application packets for USCIS and consular posts, represented individuals at USCIS interviews, immigration court hearings and appeals as well as sought post-conviction relief in state courts for clients with criminal convictions that disqualify them for immigration benefits

The Law Offices of Eduardo Soto, P.A., Coral Gables, FL

Immigration Attorney, 06/2007 – 12/2007

- Trained associate attorneys new to the firm as well as managed criminal defense department focused on post-conviction relief
- Represented individuals in State of Florida circuit courts litigating motions to vacate convictions resulting from pleas where the trial court failed to advise of possible deportation consequences as part of colloquy and appealed unfavorable decisions
- Represented individuals at USCIS interviews and immigration court Master/Individual hearings
- Composed briefs for extreme hardship waivers, motions to reopen to USCIS, appeals to AAO, and motions to reopen/reconsider/terminate for immigration court as well as appeals to the BIA
- Conducted initial consultations to secure new retainer agreements

Cabrera Law Office, Milwaukee, WI
Immigration Attorney, 01/2006 – 04/ 2007

- Interviewed and counseled clients on a variety of mainly family-based immigration benefits as well as prepared corresponding petitions (Fiancée Visas, Adjustments of Status, Renewals, Removal of Conditions, VAWA Self-Petitions, TPS and Naturalization)
- Researched, prepared and litigated deportation defense for both detained and non-detained individuals before immigration judge including motions to set bond, parole requests, applications for relief, Master/Individual hearings, motions to reopen/reconsider and appeals to the BIA
- Filed and successfully litigated state criminal post-conviction motions where necessary to create removal relief eligibility

Centro Legal, Milwaukee, WI
Criminal Defense Attorney, 06/2005 – 12/2005

- Interviewed clients to gather information, addressed client concerns, reviewed case facts, mitigating circumstances and potential penalties as well as explained available options to client with regard to a plea, possible settlement (dismissal or deferred prosecution agreement) and trial
- Represented clients at arraignments and initial appearances, obtained discovery from and negotiated plea bargains with district attorney, entered pleas on the record and argued sentencing recommendations, etc.

LICENSURE

Florida (2003)
Wisconsin (2005)
Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals (2006)
U.S. District Court Southern District of Florida (2008)

MEMBERSHIPS

Council for the Spanish Speaking Board of Directors
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Voces de la Frontera