

John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq.

Albany, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Albany, Common Council

Albany, NY

Research Counsel & Parliamentarian

1/2020 - Present

Primary legal advisor to the 15 Members of the Common Council and Council President. Responsible for drafting and processing all legislation, performing policy research and analysis, and staffing legislative committees. Provide administrative and legal support to the Office of the City Clerk. Assist Council President and Chairs of Committees with parliamentary rules during legislative and committee meetings. Revised Council procedures and processes to continue legislative function remotely during COVID-19.

Pichardo & Associates, L.L.C.

Albany, NY

Principal Attorney

9/2017-Present

Engage in a broad-based solo litigation practice focusing on identifying and responding to the specific needs of individual and corporate clients. Draft pleadings, motions, and forms. Performed extensive legal research for various aspects of civil litigation and crimes involving moral turpitude and crime of violence. Conduct trials, hearings, and alternative dispute resolution in civil and administrative law matters. Provide legal services and counseling to a high portion of Spanish-speaking clients related to immigration benefits. Develop detailed litigation strategies for each case.

Hispanic Coalition New York, Inc.

Albany, NY

General Counsel

6/2017-Present

Advise the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors on corporate governance, compliance with state, local, and federal tax law; and developing legal issues that impact the mission of the organization. Act as liaison with outside entities, including advocacy groups and state agencies. Draft and scrutinize all legal documents which includes contracts, incorporation documents, and waivers of liability.

Law Offices of Joseph A. Sena, Jr., P.L.L.C.

White Plains, NY

Associate Attorney

2/2017 – 10/2017

Represented over 50 clients in removal (deportation) proceedings. Counseled and briefed clients on immigration laws and Immigration Court procedures. Prepared over 100 various employment, family, and asylum-based petitions to submit to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and Immigration Court. Performed legal research regarding crimes involving moral turpitude and crimes of violence.

New York State Department of Labor, Counsel's Office

New York, NY

Law Clerk

11/2015 - 10/2016

Successfully represented the Department in proceedings before the Industrial Board of Appeals in matters regarding unpaid wages, retaliation, and violations of minimum wage laws. Managed and developed all aspects of a caseload of approximately 30 from pleadings to trial or settlement. Drafted and executed 40 settlement agreements and confession of judgments. Prepared investigators for trial and cross-examined witnesses. Proposed and drafted revisions to labor law regulations which included "call on pay" and building superintendent pay. Assisted with U and T Visas.

Honorable Cheryl Gonzales, Civil Courts of the City of New York, Housing Part Court Attorney/Post Graduate Fellow

New York, NY

8/2015 - 11/2015

Examined and conferenced harassment issues and other related Landlord-tenant legal issues with Judge and litigants. Drafted court orders and decisions. Evaluated stipulations of settlements between litigants. Reviewed all orders to show cause, warrants, motions, and other applications. Provided personal and confidential assistance to Judge on various issues, including supervisory duties of the court.

BAR ADMISSION

State of New York, 2017. Executive Office of Immigration Review, 2017.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Fluent- Reading, Writing, Speaking).

EDUCATION

Quinnipiac University School of Law

North Haven, CT

Juris Doctor, *Certificate in Tax Law*, 2015

Honors:

Distinguished Student Scholar Scholarship (2012-2015), Service to the Law School (2015), Service to the Community (2015), Thurgood Marshall Scholarship (2015), Board Member of the Year, National Black Law Students Association (2014),

University at Albany, State University of New York

Albany, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, *cum laude*, 2012

Honors:

Omicron Delta Kappa; Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor's Society); Dean's List. 40 Under 40 Rising Latino Star (2012).