

CARMEN E. ATKINS

EDUCATION

UC Berkeley School of Law

J.D. May 2008

Cornell University

B.S. May 2001, School of Hotel Administration

HONORS AND AWARDS

AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Rating of Highest Level of Professional Excellence 2022-2024

The National Trial Lawyers, Top Ten Trial Lawyers, Immigration 2024

1st Place "Premio Sentencias 2016," [Award to 2016 Judgments] Joint Award by UNHCR and Inter-American Court of Human Rights to most progressive immigration judgment in American continents

2nd Place "Premio Sentencias 2016" [Award to 2016 Judgments]

2008 Brian M. Sax Award for Excellence in Clinical Advocacy, UC Berkeley School of Law

2008 American Jurisprudence Award in Securities Litigation, UC Berkeley School of Law

Ye Hosts Honor Society; National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Dean's List each college semester

LANGUAGES: Native Spanish and English speaker; proficient in Portuguese, French and Italian.

BAR MEMBERSHIP: Active member of the State Bar of California; Active member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

EXPERIENCE

Robert M. Bell P.A., Hollywood, FL

Nov. 2021 — Present

Partner

Counsel noncitizens on investment, humanitarian, family and employment-based immigration strategies, including AOS, DS-260, E1, E2, Perm, EB1A, EB2, EB3, K1, L1A, TPS, VAWA, Asylum, U-Visa, T-Visa, DACA, Extensions of Stay, Cuban benefits; J-1, provisional and criminal waivers; appeals before AAO, EOIR and BIA, presidential pardons, among others; significant "crimmigration" work; managed a substantial removal caseload including forms of relief covering asylum, 42A, 42B, AOS, 212(c) waivers, motions to reopen, joint motions to reopen; prosecutorial discretion requests, conduct client consultations; significant business development and paralegal training.

Revilla Law Firm P.A., Miami, FL

Mar. 2020 — Oct. 2021

Associate

Managed a team of four paralegals to prepare and submit an average of thirty immigration benefit submissions per month, including AOS, E2, Perm, EB2, EB3, K1, L1A, TPS, VAWA, Asylum, U-Visa, T-Visa, DACA, Extensions of Stay, Cuban benefits; J-1, provisional and criminal waivers; appeals before AAO, EOIR and BIA, among others; significant "crimmigration" work; conducted client intake and consultations; conducted paralegal training.

Independent Immigration and Human Rights Consultant, Quito, Ecuador

Jan. 2017 — Dec. 2019

Manage practice focused on consular processing cases, including K1, DS260, DS160, IV; prepare investment-based immigration applications such as E2 and L1A; prepare provisional waivers for U.S. clients; liaise with Ecuadorian congressional representatives to promote cases; perform human rights compliance assessments for corporations; performed human rights due diligence for companies; liaised with Ecuadorian congressional representatives to provide legal aid to U.S. based immigrants.

***United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ecuador
Specialist***

Jun. 2014 — Dec. 2016

Representative to National Congress of the State of Ecuador on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; advised Ecuador's Congressional leadership regarding compliance of bills with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law; as member of the Human Mobility Congressional Group, drafted immigration bill for Congressional debate and public comments; positioned UNHCR as strategic partner for Ecuador's Congressional International Relations Commission; established refugee and immigrant legal aid program at Ecuadorian Public Defender's Office; developed a deportation and detention protocol for public defenders; trained public defenders nationwide on refugee and immigration law.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, NY, Menlo Park, CA; Madrid, Spain

Associate

Oct. 2008 — Sept. 2010

Summer Associate

May 2007 — Aug. 2007

Serve as associate at top five law firm focusing on capital markets and mergers and acquisitions; counsel companies listed on the NYSE and NASDAQ regarding public reporting, securities compliance and corporate governance; coordinate public offerings of common stock and private placements on company and underwriters' side; prepare due diligence reports, merger agreements and related transactional documents in mergers and acquisitions of companies; assist with negotiations of merger agreements; collaborate on foreign corrupt practices act investigations; perform substantial pro bono work.

UC Berkeley International Human Rights Law Clinic/ Myrna Mack Foundation

Legal Consultant, Guatemala City, Guatemala

May 2008 — Dec. 2012

Clinical Intern, Berkeley, CA

Aug. 2006 — Jun. 2008

Achieved 3MM award in landmark human rights case before the Inter-American Human Rights System, representing 27 direct and 100 indirect victims of forced disappearance, torture and extrajudicial execution; set regional precedent on right to transparency; awarded Brian M. Sax Award for Excellence in Clinical Advocacy, issued to clinical student with strongest performance and greatest commitment to clinical advocacy.

Natural Select, New York, NY; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Tumbes, Peru

Strategic Consultant

Apr. 2002 — Oct. 2008

Owner/Manager

Mar. 2004 — Jun. 2008

Lead U.S.-based, Ecuadorian and Peruvian producer of seafood products yielding monthly revenues of \$2MM and employing 300; design, staff, and spearhead operations in USA/Ecuador/Peru; secure clients globally, including contract accounts and standing orders; strategically devised and wrote business plan and financial projections based on due diligence; negotiated \$25MM in financing.

PUBLICATIONS:

Atkins Carmen and Sersale di Cerisano, Federico, "Los vínculos entre la justicia transicional y el desplazamiento forzado: la relevancia de la jurisprudencia de la Corte IDH", [The links between transitional justice and forced displacement: relevance of IACHR case law], Justicia transicional y Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Cuadernos de Regularidad Constitucional, Centro de Estudios Constitucionales de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, México, abril de 2017.

Office of the Public Defender of the State of Ecuador, Protocol on Access to Justice for Refugees and Migrants, Public Defender's Office, Ecuador, 2015.

Asylum Access, Refugee Status Determination in Latin America: Regional Challenges & Opportunities, January 2013, <https://www.refworld.org/reference/regionalreport/asylumaccess/2013/en/101697> [accessed 24 July 2024] (part of research and support team).

THESIS: *A Study in Victimology of José Miguel Gudiel Álvarez et al. v. Guatemala* (Diario Militar), February 2008.

MEMBERSHIPS: American Immigration Lawyers Association, Global Strategic Litigation Council, American-Ecuadorian Chamber of Commerce (immigration consultant); Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law.

Interests: Cooking, beer-making, reading, and competitive cycling.