

MERCEDES SALINAS ESPINOSA

4300 N. McColl Road
McAllen, Texas 78504
956.686.6490

EDUCATION

- 2003 Saint Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio
Juris Doctor Texas Bar No. 24041851
- 1999 Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Master of Public Administration
- 1989 Texas A&M University, College Station
Bachelor of Arts – Journalism/English

WORK EXPERIENCE

ESPINOSA LAW FIRM, L.L.C., MCALLEN, TEXAS

2010 – Present, Manager/Partner

Practice includes general administrative law, family law, corporate business transactions, contracts, technical research, employment law and real estate. Serve as general counsel to the Hidalgo County Civil Service Commission (2010-present), a neutral board overseeing grievances and complaints of County employees. Create internal policies for businesses. Negotiate contracts on behalf of clients. Serve as office manager.

ATLAS, HALL AND RODRIGUEZ L.L.P., MCALLEN, TEXAS

2003 – 2010, Associate Attorney

Practice included counseling public sector clients in legislative matters, general administrative law, procurement processes, contracts and statutory compliance. Areas of concentration include administrative law (i.e. county and city government, public and charter schools, state and federal agencies, etc.) business formation, employment law and contracts. Conduct real estate closings for public sector land acquisitions and conduct public policy analyses on various issues. Prepare legal memoranda, draft contracts, conduct technical research and attend public meetings as legal counsel.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

2001 - Summer, Law Clerk

Conducted extensive research in matters pertaining to deceptive trade practices and consumer law. Reviewed evidence on statewide cases; conducted mediations; conducted client interviews, and participated in pre-trial work.

STATE OF TEXAS - TEXAS COMMISSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Corpus Christi, Texas & Austin, Texas

October 1994-August 2000, Program Director & Storm Water Permit Writer

(1997 - 2000) Research Specialist and Storm Water Permit Writer (Corpus Christi). Served as research specialist and public relations contact for Corpus Christi Bays and Estuaries Program. Reviewed technical scientific studies and translated into lay terms. Served as staff liaison for various stakeholder groups, including industry, local governments, private citizens and small businesses regarding the impact of proposed regional strategies for bays and estuarine management.

(1994 – 1996) Clean Cities 2000 Director (Austin). Responsible for statewide municipal program pertaining to pollution prevention and waste reduction; worked extensively with public officials throughout Texas. Responsible for public works grant programs and the promotion of solid waste reduction programs through various media (print, TV, radio, etc.); extensive travel making targeted technical assistance presentations to municipalities and interest groups.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Corpus Christi, Texas

May 1989 - September 1994 Assistant to Mayor &

Assistant to Director of Public Works & Utilities

(1993 – 1994) Assistant to Director of Public Works & Utilities. Responsible for various administrative duties pertaining to water, wastewater, natural gas, solid waste, air quality and storm water. Researched legislative affects various public works and utilities; responsible for entire coordination and preparation of City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit application for EPA; negotiated all aspects of it with City departments and EPA representatives.

(1989 – 1992) Mayor's Assistant. Responsible for effective operation of mayor's office; oversaw budget and media relations. Prepared correspondence on mayor's behalf; addressed media, constituents and city departments on various citywide issues; served as Mayor's representative on various boards and commissions.

CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

Trained - Saint Mary's School of Law, 2002

MEMBERSHIPS

Leadership McAllen XXVII (2007-2008)

State Bar of Texas

Hidalgo County Bar Association

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

City of McAllen Housing and Finance Corporation (2008-2013)

Our Lady of Sorrows School Council (2010-2013)

Capital Campaign Committee (Our Lady of Sorrows Church)

Ms. Espinosa was born and raised in Roma, Texas