

Esperanza Segarra

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Esperanza Segarra is a founding partner at **Vasquez Segarra LLP**. She focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, bankruptcy & creditors' rights, civil litigation, civil rights litigation, trade secrets litigation, directors & officers' liability, and cannabis law. Esperanza is also an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School teaching Trade Secrets, an independent filmmaker, and veteran of the United States Air Force.

Experience

Prior to joining Advancement Project, she was *Of Counsel* with Darrow Everett LLP and part of DE's bankruptcy, receiverships and complex commercial litigation groups. She was lead counsel on several complex litigation matters, including a class action under the ADA and several actions involving misappropriation of trade secrets, deceptive practices and defamation claims, and an appellate matter before the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Service Areas

Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights

Cannabis Law

Complex Commercial Litigation

Civil Litigation

Civil Rights Litigation

Directors & Officers Liability Insurance Receiverships

Labor & Employment

Trade Secrets Litigation

Education

J.D., University of Illinois, College of Law, 2001 Lincoln Scholar

B.A., with high distinction, George Mason University, Government and Politics, 1997

Admissions

District of Columbia

Florida

New York

Prior to DE, Esperanza was *Senior Counsel* with the foremost Latino civil rights organization in the country, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, where she was part of the litigation team in several class actions in federal courts in New York and Florida focusing on voting rights, immigrants' rights, and criminal justice reform. She also co-authored several amicus briefs, including an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court on the citizenship question in the 2020 Census. Prior to her civil rights work with LJP, Esperanza was a *Partner* with Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, and focused her practice in complex commercial and civil litigation in the areas of banking litigation, labor and employment, mortgage brokerage litigation, securities litigation, director and officer liability, bankruptcy, receiverships and liquidations of insurance companies, residential and commercial landlord-tenant litigation, real property litigation, contract disputes, commercial matters and corporate transactions, and has an appellate practice.

Previous to Hinshaw, she was for four years a *Partner* at Lydecker, Lee, Berga & de Zayas, LLC, in Miami, Florida, where she was one of the leading attorneys involved the largest insolvency of Florida's history and one of the largest insolvencies in U.S. history—the multifaceted receiverships of three insurance companies involving complex legal issues in state court, district court tax proceedings, federal bankruptcy

Admissions (cont'd)

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Southern District of Florida

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Languages

Spanish

court, Chapter 11 reorganizations and adversaries, and in the district court of several bankruptcy appeals.

Esperanza began her legal career in 2001 as an *Associate Attorney* at Weissman, Dervishi, Borgo & Nordlund, P.A., in Miami. In 2003 she moved to Murray, Marin & Herman, P.A., in Coral Gables, and then to Zorrilla & Associates, P.L., until 2016.

Clients and Representative Cases

Esperanza's clients have included the Florida Department of Financial Services, as Receiver, national and international corporations, professional athletes and high net worth individuals. Her representative cases include *Canpro Investments Ltd. v. The United States*, action against the federal government in the Federal Claims Court for damages in excess of \$4M; *Florida Department of Financial Services, as Receiver of Magnolia Insurance Company, v. Allianz Risk Transfer, et al.*, for damages in excess of \$24M; *Florida Department of Financial Services, as Receiver of Southern Family Insurance Co., Atlantic Preferred Insurance Co. and Florida Preferred Property Insurance Co. v. Poe Financial Group, Inc., et al.*, the largest insolvency case in Florida's history and one of the largest in the country, involving complex legal issues before state receivership court, district court tax proceedings, federal bankruptcy court Chapter 11 reorganizations and liquidations, several bankruptcy adversary proceedings and district court bankruptcy appeals.

Presentations

- "Lender Liability: Staying Out of Hot Water," Commercial Loans - Summer Heat Seminar, live videoconference, July, 2013
 - "Using Loan Documents to Help Avoid Losing Your Shirt in Foreclosures and Bankruptcies," Commercial Loans
 - Building Lender Protections From Start to Finish Seminar, October 2012
 - "Latest Legal Battles, It Could Happen to You (English)" / "La Defensa Contra Recuperaciones De Clientes en Bancarrota (Spanish)," presented in Spanish, 2012 FIADA Annual Convention, Boca Raton, Florida, October 2012
 - "Use of Social Media in Hiring, Retaining and Firing Employees," Hispanic National Bar Association's 37th Annual Convention," Seattle, Washington, August 2012
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Publications and Media

- [Esperanza comments on voting rights legislation on Univision News](#)
 - [Why Clergy are Suing Georgia Over New "Election Integrity" Law](#)
 - [Religious Coalition Files Suit to Stop Georgia's New Voter Law](#)
 - Co-author of "Formal Steps Need to be Taken to Acknowledge Unconscious Bias," which appeared in the January 23, 2012 edition of *Daily Business Review*.
 - During her service in the U.S. Air Force, Ms. Segarra assisted in the preparation of the 1997 8th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation's Executive Report: "Rewarding, Organizing and Managing People in the 21st Century."
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Professional Affiliations and Recognitions

- New York State Bar Association
 - International Section, Florida Bar Chapter
 - Former Co-Chair and Executive Committee, Former Member
 - District of Columbia Bar
 - The Florida Bar
 - Diversity MBA Magazine's eleventh annual list of "Top 100 under 50 Diverse Executive Leaders" for 2017
 - Named "The Top 100 Women of Influence" with Diversity MBA Magazine for 2020
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Community and Civic Activities

- Restoration of Rights for Amendment 4 in Florida, Volunteer
- Election Protection, a non-partisan nonprofit organization, Volunteer
- The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), a nonprofit organization, Volunteer
- Waves For Change Alliance, Inc., a nonprofit organization, Co-Founder and former President
- Dade County Bar Association, "Put Something Back *Pro Bono* Project," Young Lawyers Division's *eMentoring* Program, Volunteer
- Lawyers for Children America, Inc., Volunteer
- Special Olympics and other child advocacy organizations, Volunteer
- Veteran of the United States Air Force