

written discovery and depositions (including spending days with clients, thoroughly reviewing records and preparing them for their deposition) persuading the cruise lines to honor the benefits owed them under maritime law, and defending their rights in court through frequent motion practice.

Lenfant & Associates Metairie, Louisiana

Law Clerk September 1995 – March 1996

While attending law school full time, helped lawyers for Aetna Casualty & Surety defend their cases by briefing them on the law through memorandums, and drafting numerous motions.

Education

Tulane Law School New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor, May 1997 **Cum Laude**

Obtained a **Certificate of Specialty in Admiralty & Maritime Law**. As **Social Chairperson of La Alianza del Derecho**, restructured social events by booking them in strategically-selected, prime areas of town and transforming these events into fundraising functions that generated record profits for the organization. Later, as **Immigration Clinic Student Lawyer**, I secured a small fraction of these funds to help a large Latin America family who were eligible for naturalization but unable to afford the fees and costs, pursue citizenship. Also helped a **Cuban Detainee** in a Louisiana prison, make his case for release from indefinite detention before an INS parole board.

University of Miami Coral Gables, Florida

Bachelor of Science in Communications, May 1994 **Honors**

While majoring in **journalism and political science**, and working at the **UM Bookstore** during all but my last year at UM, I generated and covered all sort of stories for **The Miami Hurricane Newspaper** – including some that were featured in the paper’s front page. I was a member of **Delta Gamma Women’s Fraternity**, where I earned recognitions and awards including the “Lean On Me Award,” held numerous leadership positions such as Rush Preference Night Chairperson and Rituals Chairperson, and was big sister to four women. Also during the 1992-1993 Orange Bowl Festivities, the Orange Bowl Committee chose me as an **Orange Bowl Princess** whereby I served in an ambassador-like capacity for the Committee at Bowl events.

Presentations & Publications

Getting Noticed and Making the Right Connections: Tools for the Current Market.

The Miami Chapter of Women of ALPFA, 2010 Panelist

Emerging Legal Issues

Hispanic National Bar Association’s 2009 mid-year meeting Moderator

Business Series

Latina Style Magazine, 2007 Panelist

Tutorial on Florida’s Judicial System

Citizens Property Insurance Corporation Speaker

What’s Hot in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Litigation

Drug and Medical Device Seminar, New Orleans, La. (May, 2008) Co-author

Selected Community Involvement

Hispanic National Bar Association (2008- present)

As **Florida Regional President** served on the **Board of Governors**. Also, built networks to establish a state-wide HNBA presence, by, in an innovative move, assigning ambassadors to Florida law schools and naming deputies to Florida judicial circuits; and then providing guidance and support to ambassadors, law students and faculty, deputies and others regarding programs and events in their schools or regions. Raised membership and recruited Hispanic bar organizations throughout the State to join the HNBA as affiliates. Established a calendar of events in the Region, which includes the HNBA Tennis Tournament and the 11th Judicial Circuit's Holiday Party. Envisioned, organized and executed every aspect of the 2011 Inaugural HNBA Tennis Tournament (at the site of the Sony Ericsson Open) which drew approximately 250 players and guests (including sitting federal and State judges) raised more than \$20,000 for the HNBA legal Education Fund, and was featured in a multiple-page spread in the Daily Business Review. At the HNBA Holiday party in the 11th Judicial Circuit, we collected hundreds of toys and raised more than \$500 for Miami Children's Hospital. Developed relationships with sponsors, the media, legal community and other bar organization leaders; while collaborating with the latter on issues of common-interest. Within the HNBA, I was also one of 50 women chosen to participate in an **HNBA/ Association of Corporate Counsel Leadership Training Program**. I was a founding member of the **Latina Commission** and served on the **Editorial Board of Noticias** (the HNBA's magazine).

Lawyers for Children of America (2008-present)

As a volunteer **Attorney ad Litem**, I am currently representing the surviving twin in the Barahona case. I have also protected the legal rights and ensured the welfare of two little girls taken away from their mother by the Department of Children and Families due to substance abuse and neglect. Successfully made the case for why it was in a little boy's best interest for his caretaker, and not his maternal grandmother, to adopt him.

Latino Leaders Magazine (2011-present)

Chosen as one of 22 members of Club Leaders of the Future – a networking group of young leaders, commissioned to improve or enhance the Miami Community.

March of Dimes (2008-2009)

Planning Committee of "Life to the Fullest," a March of Dimes pilot fundraising event in Miami,

Chief Justice's Advisory Committee for the 2010 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Awards, **Member** (2010)

University of Miami Business School, **Mentor** (2007-2009)

Cuban American Bar Association, **Member** (2000-present)

Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial & the ABA's Client Counsel Competitions, **Judge** (2008-2009)

Selected Continuing Education

Summer Adoption Law Institute - Earned 23.5 CLE Hours (August, 2009)

The National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio