

Marcela Villeda Sanchinelli

Attorney

Marcela Villeda Sanchinelli is an Attorney at Grossman Young & Hammond with experience in family-based, employment-based, and criminal-immigration matters. Marcela assists clients with challenging persecutory INTERPOL Red Notices, complex inadmissibility waivers, and humanitarian relief applications, such as asylum, humanitarian parole, and temporary protected status. Moreover, Marcela's own immigration journey makes her particularly empathetic to the needs of immigrants as her family immigrated to the United States from Guatemala. She is a third-generation attorney, following in the footsteps of her grandfather and father, who served underrepresented communities in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Marcela graduated from the American University Washington College of Law. While in law school, Marcela worked as an Immigration Paralegal at Bravlin PC. In this role, she handled various business immigration matters, such as H-1B specialty occupation visa petitions; PERM (ETA Form 9089) recruitment efforts with managers and high-level company partners, including audit and supervised recruitment responses; and immigrant and nonimmigrant visas for individuals with extraordinary ability.

Marcela is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). She is barred in the District of Columbia. She is fluent in Spanish.

Education

- J.D., American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.
- B.A., George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, cum laude
- Major: Sociology, minors: Social Justice and Data Analysis

Admissions/Memberships

- District of Columbia Bar Association
- District of Columbia Court of Appeals
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

Professional Activities/Pro-Bono Work

- Member, AILA DC Chapter's Pro Bono and Citizenship Committee (2024-2026)
- Volunteer Attorney, Christian Legal Aid of the District of Columbia
- Volunteer, Project Immigration Justice for Palestinians

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Selected Presentations

- Fall 2026 Edition: Immigration Policy Updates under Trump 2.0 Webinar September 30th, 2026

Accolades

- Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2027 for work in Immigration Law.

Blogs

- Not So Basic Questions to Ask Your Immigration Attorney, March 31, 2026
- When "It Should Be Easy" Isn't: Why Understanding Removal Proceedings Matters, February 12, 2026
- Does Biden's New Parole in Place Program Apply to You? August 22, 2024

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