

PATRICIA FRESHWATER
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**PROFESSIONAL
SUMMARY**

I am an experienced and passionate attorney with 20 years of practice experience. Since 2009, I have focused my career on advocacy and direct representation of immigrant members of our North Texas community. I am a founding partner of Lopez & Freshwater, PLLC.

In addition to providing direct legal representation, I am frequently invited to lead continuing legal education trainings for attorneys through the State Bar of Texas, the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, the Conference on Crimes Against Women, the Mexican Consulate in Irving, Texas, and various nonprofit organizations.

I am deeply committed to educating the next generation of passionate attorneys and am a strong communicator who is capable of making complex topics more understandable and engaging. I enjoy developing curricula that is well-defined, interactive, and purposeful. I strongly believe that legal education should be accessible to all and should emphasize practice-based learning to equip new attorneys with the skills necessary to effectively serve and advocate for their communities. I am eager to contribute to innovative legal education programs that prioritize practical skills and community service.

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA
J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2006

- *Virginia Law Review*, Editorial Board, Notes Editor
- John S. Field Scholarship Recipient
- International Rescue Committee Project Volunteer
- Immigration Law Clinic

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
BBA, *summa cum laude*, 2002 (Marketing and Psychology)

- Notre Dame Scholar
- Selected to Participate in the London Program

EXPERIENCE

University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law
Dallas, TX, Assistant Professor, 2026-present

- Currently teaching Immigration Law for the Fall Semester 2026
- Planning to teach Constitutional law, Immigration law, and other immigration-related courses in future semesters.

Lopez & Freshwater, PLLC
Richardson, TX, *Partner*, 2011-2026

- Co-founder and co-owner of immigration boutique law firm serving immigrants in Northern Texas and beyond.
- Legal representation of individuals and families in immigration applications before U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including family-based visa petitions, waivers, naturalization and citizenship, asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, DACA, stays of removal, VAWA, and U and T nonimmigrant status.
- Legal representation of individuals and families in removal proceedings, bond proceedings, and motions before the Dallas Immigration Court and in appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

- Management of law office employing 29 team members, including associate attorneys, paralegals, and administrative assistants, with a current focus on training and mentoring associate attorneys in deportation defense work.

Catholic Charities of Dallas, Immigration & Legal Services

Dallas, TX, *Equal Justice Works Fellow & Staff Attorney*, 2009 - 2011

- Designed and implemented legal representation project for detained immigrants: organized bi-monthly consultations, provided detainees with pro se materials, and provided representation in Immigration Court for detainees with available relief.
- Created pro bono attorney recruitment, training, and case placement program; over 100 volunteer attorneys trained by program, with more than 30 cases placed for pro bono representation.
- Successfully drafted fellowship proposal to Equal Justice Works, securing funding for a two-year fellowship from a local law firm and the state government.

Crowell & Moring, LLP

Washington, D.C., *Associate Attorney*, 2007- 2009

- Successfully represented Ethiopian asylum seeker fleeing political violence in a pro bono case in the Arlington Immigration Court.
- Drafted appellate brief for pro se asylum seeker fleeing gang violence in Mexico through the Board of Immigration Appeals Pro Bono Project.
- Researched and wrote memoranda and briefs; conducted depositions, drafted interrogatories, organized discovery tasks.

Honorable J. Frederick Motz, U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

Baltimore, MD, *Law Clerk*, 2006 - 2007

- Researched and drafted bench memoranda and opinions of the Court.

PUBLICATIONS

Patricia Freshwater, *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Foreign-Born Children*, Headnotes (Dall. Bar. Ass'n, Dallas, Tex.), Dec. 2015 at 20.

Patricia Freshwater, *The Obligation of Non-Refoulement Under the Convention Against Torture: When has a Foreign Government Acquiesced in the Torture of Its Citizens?*, 19 GEO. IMMIGR. L.J. 585 (2005).

HONORS AND AWARDS

D Magazine, Best Lawyers in Dallas (2018-2020)

Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Estrella Award (2017)

Super Lawyers, Texas Rising Stars (2014-2018)

Best Article News Article, State Bar of Texas (2016), award received for Patricia Freshwater, *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for Foreign-Born Children*, Headnotes (Dall. Bar. Ass'n, Dallas, Tex.), Dec. 2015 at 20.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Board Member (2018-2020)

Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Immigration Committee Chair (2020)

Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Board Member (2018-2019)

Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Co-Chair Unaccompanied Minors Comm. (2015-2017)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Pro Bono Attorney Immigration Bond Training at the Dallas Bar Association in collaboration with Mosaic Family Services and the Dallas Public Defender's Office (June & September 2025)

Guest Lecturer, Asylum Law: Particular Social Group at Villanova University's BIA Accredited Representative Training Program (2025)

Immigration Law Overview Presentation at Gateways of Grace non-profit organization (2024 and 2023)

Hot Topics in U Visa and VAWA Cases Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2023)

COVID-19: Disparate Employment Effects and Immigration Impact on the Hispanic Community Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Annual Meeting – State Bar of Texas, Hispanic Issues Section (2020)

Representing Central American Asylum Seekers, Training and Mock Trial for Pro Bono Attorneys at Catholic Charities (2019)

New Developments in Federal Policy Toward Domestic Violence Asylum Seekers, Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Conference on Crimes Against Women (2019)

Legal Remedies as a Response to the Border Crisis Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association in collaboration with Human Rights Initiative, Catholic Charities, and RAICES (2018)

Immigration 101: Family-Based Immigration, U and T visas, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Visas, and Asylum Continuing Legal Education Presentation at Conference on Crimes Against Women (2018)

Protecting Your Undocumented Client: Immigration Options, Recent Changes in Immigration Enforcement, and Strategies for Protecting Immigrant Victims of Crime Continuing Legal Education Presentation at Conference on Crimes Against Women (2018)

Best Practices for Representing Non-Citizen Clients Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association: Criminal Law Section (2018)

President Trump's Executive Orders Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2017)

Understanding the Notice to Appear in Immigration Court Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2017)

Representing Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2017)

Immigration Q&A: Recent Changes in Interior Immigration Enforcement Continuing Legal Education Presentation at Conference on Crimes Against Women (2017)

Asylum Law: Protecting Women Fleeing Violence in Their Home Countries Continuing Legal Education Presentation at Conference on Crimes Against Women (2017)

Legal Clinic for Immigrant Children Presentation at the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (2016)

Introduction and Updates to Immigration Relief for Immigrant Children and Families, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2016)

Representing Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence and Other Crimes Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Conference on Crimes Against Women (2015, 2016)

Representing Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence and Other Crimes Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Latinos Against Domestic Violence Conference (2015)

Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2015)

Deferred Action for Parents of U.S. Citizens Presentation at Genesis Women's Shelter & Support (2015)

Immigrants: Know Your Rights Presentation at Genesis Women's Shelter & Support (2015)

Immigration Law After the Demise of DOMA Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Dallas Bar Association (2014)

Representing Non-Citizen Clients After Padilla v. Kentucky Continuing Legal Education Presentations at the Dallas Bar Association and the Denton County Criminal Bar Association (2013)

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Presentations at St. Michaels Catholic Church, St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, and All Saints Catholic Church (2012)

Immigrants: Know Your Rights Presentation at Comunidade Crista Brasileira de Lewisville (2011)

Representing Immigrants in Removal Proceedings Continuing Legal Education Presentation (2010)

Immigration Law and Crimes: Defenses to Removal Continuing Legal Education Presentation at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (2010)

Applying for Asylum in Immigration Court Continuing Legal Education Presentation for the Dallas Bar Association Pro Bono Attorney Program (2010)