

Nays-Milagro Saldana Cruz, Esq.

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USA, nmsc3939@proton.me

Adaptable high functioning professional available for travel, remote work, and worldwide relocation. In search of career in policy advocacy & analysis, community development, entrepreneurship support and philanthropy.

Skills: Team Oversight, Coaching and Mentoring, Diplomacy, Business Planning, Staff Training, Research, Business Administration, Verbal and Written Communication, Client Service, Negotiation, Nimble Strategic Solutions, Multicultural communicator, Public Speaking, Microsoft Suite, technology nerd, Bi-lingual-Spanish Fluent. Learning Arabic.

EXPERIENCE

MILAGROS SALDANA CRUZ, LLC, General Managing Attorney: Present. Areas: Immigration Law, global migration, elder law estate planning, federal disability, family law. Strategize litigation. Negotiate agreements for clients. Leverage technology to streamline processes & improve operational efficiencies. Developed Phone App for confidential client communication. Managed the daily operations related to customer service, human resources, and marketing.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, University of Hartford

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Connecticut Appleseed Center for Law & Justice Initiated strategic planning activities to facilitate programs. Represented the organization at meetings, conferences, and events. Led teams of professionals, providing guidance, mentoring, and setting clear objectives. Collaborated with various government agencies to further policy objectives to improve court interpreter certification, Zoning Laws and housing stock, special education for children in Connecticut.

ADDITIONAL PASSIONS: Traveling/deep dive into different cultures, innovative technology, meditation, artist, hiking, comedy improvisation, sailing, reiki.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

CO-FOUNDER, International Hartford, Inc. *JANUARY 2013 – PRESENT*, IH is a public/private venture non-profit. First President of the Board, 2013-2019, Current Board member. With government grants IH assists the immigrant community with economic development. In addition to providing business development education, IH assists immigrant entrepreneurs to start or expand their business through a network of community organizations and government agencies. Head public hearings, collaborative meetings with government & community stakeholders.

FOUNDER, Immigration Law Committee, CT Bar Association, ROCKY HILL, CT *OCTOBER 2014 - PRESENT*, Pursued networking events and industry-related meetings to increase support for immigration lawyers at the intersection of criminal law and global migration for Connecticut Bar Association members. Presenter, continuing legal education, Family migration.

TRUSTEE, The Fund for Greater Hartford, CT *January 2014 - November 2016* A private, independent foundation believes in the power of stakeholders working together to ensure children in greater

Hartford are academically and socially proficient. The Fund provides thought leadership and financial support to nonprofit organizations and collaborations that apply best practices to their work and demonstrate measurable outcomes. Specifically, reviewed potential grantees for longer term grants, implementation of programming for delivery of education using the most up to recent data on the effects of chronic stress and early education.

COURT LIAISON, CT Chapter, American Immigration Lawyer Association, 2011-2013

Immigration Court Liaison for the local chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Liaised with court personnel to facilitate smooth transitions of cases through the court system. Served as a resource for information regarding local laws and regulations.

Demonstrated strong interpersonal skills when interacting with clients, witnesses, attorneys and judges.

BOARD MEMBER, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, Hartford, CT. Identified areas of improvement within existing processes, procedures, policies to increase operational efficiency. Provided guidance to management team to ensure that policies and procedures were followed appropriately. FLE supports impoverished teen-age parents objectively facilitating the parent attainment of High School Diploma & College Degree. FLE has demonstrated a marked decrease in child abuse & neglect within its service population. Recently FLE established a “child kitchen” for cooking & nutritional education of impoverished children.

FORMER PRESIDENT, CT Hispanic Bar Association Collaborated with board members to achieve organizational goals and objectives. Created vision and strategic priorities that aligned with goals and visions of organization and structured mutual benefit agreements with new partners, cultivated relationships with government officials and other stakeholders.

BARRISTER, American Inn of Court, Hartford, CT Chapter

EDUCATION: University of Connecticut, School of Law, Juris Doctorate, June 1990

Mount Holyoke College, Bachelor of Arts, Double Major: Politics and Spanish, South Hadley, May 1987

LICENSES: Connecticut Supreme Court, U.S. Federal District Court of Connecticut

LANGUAGES: Spanish Fluent

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- International Hartford, President of Board Recognition, 2019
- Connecticut Bar Foundation, Cooper Fellow, 2018
- Lawyers of Distinction, Excellence in Immigration Law, 2019 & 2020
- Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, President of Board Recognition
- Connecticut Bar Association, Pro Bono
- Mount Holyoke College, Community Service
- First Place, “Woman in Jungle”, works on paper-watercolor. National Arts Festival