

Daniel Cortes

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Education

Florida International University College of Law, Miami, Florida Juris Doctor with honors, *cum laude*, May 2019
Rank: 22/125 **Awards:** Dean's List: Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Activities: Student Bar Association, President, May 2018-May 2019.
Black Law Student Association, Community Outreach Director, August 2017-May 2019.

Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science in Management, *magna cum laude*, May 2011 **Minors:** Economics & Sociology
GPA: 3.8 **Awards:** Dean's List: Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011

Experience

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW (Assistant Professor) July 2023 – Present
Villanova, PA

- Director for the Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT (Staff Attorney) Reading, PA November 2020 – July 2023

- Handle various immigration matters within the immigrant community in Pennsylvania. Focusing on initial & renewal DACA applications, Citizenship applications, document renewals, U Visas, T Visas, asylum, and other miscellaneous affairs.
- Lead community outreach and trainings with School Districts, Non-Profits, and government entities on immigrant rights, inclusivity, and overview of our services. Create partnerships with other organizations to meet needs of immigrant community.

LEGAL AID OF SOUTHEASTERN PA (Staff Attorney) Norristown, PA October 2019-November 2020

- Worked under the Community Engagement Unit, building partnerships with local and state agencies, community organizations, court administrators, and other non-profits. Created efficiencies in our services and strengthened our presence in the community.
- Handled cases in expungements, landlord/tenant, unemployment, public benefits, name changes, administrative appeals, and immigration. Handled a caseload of over 100 and co-managed teams of 2-4 interns every semester.
- Implemented e-signature platform, improved online forms, spearheaded and designed our online clinics, and created task force to address hundreds of evictions during COVID pandemic.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Miami, FL January 2019-May 2019

REPRESENTATIVE DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL (Legal Intern)

- Conducted research regarding administrative procedures and policy initiatives for legislative consideration.
- Drafted memoranda relating to immigration reforms and foreign affairs.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK (Legal Intern) Reading, Pennsylvania May 2018-August 2018

- Compiled and filed immigration petitions for domestic violence victims from start to finish.
- Conducted intakes, document gathering, legal research, and client support.
- Drafted renewal DACA applications, submit green card renewals, and filled out other immigration petitions.

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (Legal Intern) Miami, FL January 2018-May 2018

- Assisted in drafting, researching, and editing petitions of certiorari to the US Supreme Court.
- Researched and drafted evidentiary motions, preliminary matters, and post-trial issues.
- Synthesized discovery files for supervising attorney and compiled evidentiary documents.

US DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FL Miami, FL August 2017-December 2017

THE HONORABLE DARRIN P. GAYLES (Judicial Intern)

- Researched and drafted bench memoranda on jurisdiction, employment discrimination, maritime, and contract law.
- Investigated jurisdictional issues for law clerks and wrote drafts for preliminary motions.

CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION (Legal Intern) New York, NY June 2017-July 2017

- Examined bail statutes and wrote a memorandum on bail reform.
- Conducted surveys on procedural justice in Manhattan criminal court. Observed community and mental health courts, pretrial programs, and youth initiatives.

SEED SCHOOL OF MIAMI (Student Life Counselor) Miami Gardens, FL November 2015-June 2016

- Served as the creator, planner, and implementer of student life programming for eleven middle school students.
- Fostered a positive educational environment through weekly programming and focused on student's educational success increasing all of students' grades by year-end.

TEACH FOR AMERICA (Math Teacher)**Miami, FL**

July 2013-July 2015

- Instructed 120 sixth grade students in areas of arithmetic, proportions, fractions, geometry, and basic algebra.
- Advised a business club where students managed a school store and learned about running a business.

Language

- **Spanish:** Fluent, oral and written.
- **French:** Limited working proficiency

Community Engagement

- Board of Trustees for Reading Area Community College April 2022-Present

Speaking Engagements/Professional Speaking

- FIU Law School Commencement Speaker May 2019
<https://www.facebook.com/585905829/videos/10158801673935830/>
- “How to Support Dreamers through a cultural and legal framework” *Penn State University* July 2021
Presentation to Educators on resources for Dreamers focusing on access to higher education regardless of legal status
- “Technology & Language Access” 2022 *PLAN Annual Conference* October 2022
Presentation to Lawyers on how to use technology to provide better language access to clients
- “Refugees & Immigrants & Health Equity” *Drexel University College of Medicine* January 2023
Presentation to Medical Students on how to work with immigrant clients and provide resources for holistic care and legal resources for various legal statuses.