

# **SERGE A. MARTINEZ**

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(w) 516.463.4739

## **EDUCATION**

**Yale Law School**, New Haven, Connecticut  
J.D., May 1999

**Brigham Young University**, Provo, Utah  
B.A. *cum laude*, International Relations August 1994  
Minor concentration in Spanish

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Hofstra University School of Law**, Hempstead, NY July 2006-Present  
*Attorney-in-Charge, Community & Economic Development Clinic*  
*Associate Clinical Professor of Law*

Establish and direct clinical program providing legal assistance to community-based groups, other nonprofits, and micro-businesses in low-income communities in and around Nassau County. Supervise approximately 20 law students annually in their work with Clinic clients on counseling concerning choice-of-entity decisions for small businesses, incorporation of nonprofit corporations, application for recognition of tax-exempt status, drafting/review of contracts and other legal documents, lease negotiations, legal research, legal and legislative analysis, drafting of legislation, legislative advocacy, tax matters, support for community organizing, community workshops, zoning questions and others. Teach a weekly seminar to law students on the theoretical, practical and ethical aspects of client representation and social justice lawyering. Conduct community workshops and legal education presentations in Long Island and New York City.

**Urban Justice Center**, New York, NY August 2002 – June 2006  
*Staff Attorney, Community Development Project*

Bilingual (English/Spanish) transactional and litigation practice for community-based organizations and micro-businesses. Assisted community-based groups with issues such as incorporation, tax exemption, bylaws, board elections, personnel policies, leases, contracts, deeds. Prevented eviction of commercial (not-for-profit) and individual clients. Represented tenant associations in affirmative group litigation against landlords. Assisted low-income homeowners in foreclosure prevention where there had been predatory lending. Prepared and presented workshops in English and Spanish on various subjects concerning matters of law relevant to clients and their constituent communities. Worked with law firms citywide to find pro bono co-counsel as necessary.

**Columbia Law School**, New York, NY November 2004 – May 2006  
*Part-time Counselor, Center for Public Interest Law*

Provided guidance and assistance to Columbia Law School students interested in pursuing careers in the public interest legal world. Discussed career options, explained the different areas of public interest law, reviewed resumes and other application materials, conducted mock interviews.

**Association of the Bar of the City of New York**

*Member, Pro Bono Committee* October 2004-August 2007

Worked with committee to strengthen the links between the private bar and the public interest bar in NYC and to increase pro bono activity among city law firms. Established pro bono guidelines for ABCNY for adoption by city law firms.

*Member, Tax Exempt Organizations Committee* September 2007-May 2008

Address legislative issues relating to not-for-profit corporations and other tax-exempt organizations, at the state and federal levels.

**Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**, New York, NY September 2000 – July 2002

*Tax Associate*

General corporate tax practice. Participated in structuring tax-driven financial products. Researched and prepared memoranda of law in various areas of federal and state income taxation. Drafted tax sections of offering memoranda. Prepared and presented tax seminars in Spanish and English for low-income taxpayers on behalf of a *pro bono* client.

**Federal Court of Australia**, Melbourne, Australia September 1999 – June 2000

*Law clerk to Justice Peter Heerey*

Researched, drafted and edited judgments for trial court/appeals court.

**Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization** January 1998 – May 1999

Yale Law School

*Law Student Director, Community Legal Services Clinic*

Founded and oversaw clinical outreach program for Latino community in New Haven. Supervised clinical experiences of other law students. Established clinic policy regarding selection of clients and cases.

**ADMISSIONS**

State Bar of New York April 2001-Present

US Southern District of New York April 2003-Present

US Eastern District of New York May 2003-Present

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Striking the Right Balance: Clinic Design and Supervisory Reflection in Complex Litigation and Transactions*, concurrent workshop co-presenter, AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education, Tucson, AZ May 2008.

*Teaching Transactional Skills in a Clinic*, concurrent workshop co-presenter “Teaching Drafting and Transactional Skills: The Basics and Beyond,” Emory Center for Transactional Law and Practice, Atlanta, GA, May 2008.

*A Tale of Election Day 2008: Teaching Storytelling Through Repeated Experiences*, co-authored with Professor Stef Krieger. Presented by Professor Krieger at the Applied Legal Storytelling Conference at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, OR.

## **PUBLICATION**

*Teaching Transactional Skills in a Clinic*; 203 Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law, Special Report 203 (2009).

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Fluent in spoken and written Spanish.