

## Esther Contreras

Principal, Schaumburg

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### Schaumburg

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Esther Contreras provides immigration solutions to corporate clients including foreign investors, domestic businesses hiring foreign workers, and multinational companies transferring foreign employees to the U.S. She also represents individual executives, professionals, researchers, scientists and artists regarding their specific immigration-related needs. Her practice comprises all aspects of nonimmigrant visas, permanent residence, citizenship and worksite enforcement, including Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification and E-Verify compliance.

Esther is valued for her ability to anticipate the needs of her clients. A staunch problem-solver, she considers cost, timing and longer-term issues at stake, as immigration decisions can have a reverberating impact even decades into the future. By understanding what is important to each client she serves, Esther provides customized solutions specific to their business objectives.

Esther's clients span a wide range of industries, such as information technology, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, financial services, healthcare, retail, mining, education, technical services and the arts. A "people person," Esther truly enjoys serving her clients from around the globe — getting to know them, understanding their experiences, and finding practical ways to overcome their challenges.

Notably, Esther is actively involved in various legal and business associations and currently holds leadership positions and has done so in the past. She also provides pro bono legal services for The Joffrey Ballet, indigent clients in need of U visa petitions through Chicago's Legal Assistance Foundation and Spanish-speaking individuals for naturalization eligibility at community organized workshops through Instituto del Progreso



### Education

University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., 2008

Northwestern University, B.A., 2002

Universidad Catolica Argentina, Law Exchange in Argentina, 2007

### Admissions

Illinois

### Practice Areas

Immigration

### Languages

Spanish

French

Latino.

## Experience

- Help employers and businesses understand and manage risks related visa and green card sponsorship for their employees, taking into account current government practices and their business' needs and preferences.
  - Represent international individual and corporate investors looking to set up operations in the United States to evaluate options and process work visas.
  - Assist multinational companies in developing optimal strategies to transfer employees from entities around the world to the United States.
  - Work with clients undergoing corporate restructuring, such as mergers, acquisitions and spin-offs, to understand their immigration-legal obligations, such as Form I-9 liability and compliance as well as continuation of work eligibility for foreign national employees.
  - Counsel employers on their immigration-related obligations to hiring and employment practices, such as complying with laws related to Form I-9 and E-Verify, as well as prohibitions on discrimination, document abuse, and the employment of unauthorized workers.
  - Obtain permanent residence for individual professionals such as artists, scientists and business professionals.
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## Memberships

- American Immigration Lawyers Association
  - Chicago Bar Association - Former Vice Chair, Immigration and Nationality Committee
  - Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law
  - Hispanic National Bar Association
  - University of Illinois College of Law Alumni Association - Former Board Member, 2013-2014
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## Distinctions

- *Leading Lawyers* - Emerging Lawyer, 2015-2020
  - *Illinois Super Lawyers* - Rising Star, 2019-2020
  - University of Illinois College of Law, Latino/Latina Law Students Association - Alumna of the Year, 2019
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