



Mariana Muñoz-Lara

Associate

mariana.muniz@dlapiper.com

San Juan

T: +1 787 945 9106

F: +1 939 697 6141

Mariana Muñoz-Lara focuses her practice in the areas of Litigation and Employment Law.

Prior to joining DLA Piper in November 2018, Mariana worked in the Litigation and Employment divisions of one of Puerto Rico's leading local law firms. Mariana has participated in a wide range of complex commercial litigation and arbitration matters, representing public and private entities before state and federal first instance and appellate courts, as well as administrative agencies and arbitral forums. Among the areas in which she has developed her litigation practice are breach of contracts, fraud, intellectual property, employment, unfair competition, antitrust, real estate, and insurance. Mariana has also served as local counsel for *pro hac vice* attorneys in a wide range of court cases and arbitration proceedings held in Puerto Rico.

Mariana also served as a Law Clerk to former Chief Justice of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court, Liana Fiol Matta, for three years, and has taught Legal Writing and Investigation courses and spoken at conferences at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law.

As a law student, Mariana was an Associate Director of the University of Puerto Rico Law Review, a Teaching Assistant, and a leader in diverse student organizations and pro bono programs regarding civil rights, women's rights, workers' rights, and community and environmental issues. She also participated in Communications Law programs with the American Bar Association and the Center for Freedom of the Press of Puerto Rico, and received several academic excellence scholarships.

Before becoming a lawyer, Mariana was a journalist and worked as a reporter at two of Puerto Rico's major newspapers, *El Nuevo Día* and *El Vocero*.

Mariana is a certified arbitrator and mediator in Puerto Rico.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English
- Spanish

CREDENTIALS

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Employment

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English Spanish

Admissions

- Puerto Rico

Education

- J.D., University of Puerto Rico
Magna Cum Laude
- B.A., Journalism and Modern Languages, University of Puerto Rico
Summa Cum Laude

Courts

- Puerto Rico state courts and administrative agencies
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico

INSIGHTS

Publications

Puerto Rico lockdown lifted; most businesses and tourism reopen

18 June 2020

The tourism, recreation and entertainment industries will resume operations progressively.

Lockdown in Puerto Rico modified to allow greater commercial activity

28 May 2020

Puerto Rico's lockdown order is extended, but a number of additional businesses are being allowed resume operations, with certain limitations.

Puerto Rico: Potential solutions for business agreements affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

15 May 2020

As businesses start to reopen and redefine their operations in Puerto Rico, they should also prepare for potential disputes.

Puerto Rico starts reopening businesses: Employers must establish exposure control plans

11 May 2020

The authorization to reopen is conditioned on the adoption of strict measures by employers to avoid contagion.

Puerto Rico's Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act is in force

16 April 2020

The Act will also apply in case of future epidemics in which the Puerto Rican government declares a state of emergency.

Coronavirus: New emergency leaves take effect in Puerto Rico

8 April 2020

Private employers in Puerto Rico will need to comply with two new emergency paid leaves established by the federal government in the response to COVID-19.

Puerto Rico: New leave available for employees to deal with domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, stalking and child abuse

14 August 2019

The act is now in effect.

Puerto Rico: being charged with a felony can be just cause for dismissal

10 MAY 2019

The Supreme Court of Puerto Rico found that an employer may establish rules it considers reasonable and that while a person is presumed innocent in criminal proceedings, that presumption does not extend to the employment context.

- Changes to reporting requirements for severance payments in Puerto Rico, 20 Dec 2018

Events

Previous

Diversity and Inclusion Summit in Puerto Rico

27 September 2019

San Juan

NEWS

MEDIA MENTIONS:

- "Puerto Rico: Draft law on digital privacy "directly empowers consumers", " *DataGuidance*, March 28, 2019

PRO BONO

Mariana has provided legal training on press freedom, defamation and access to information issues to reporters from a non-profit organization of female journalists. She has also helped a community based association in the negotiation of a contract to turn an abandoned public building into a community center for educational and recreational services. Additionally, Mariana has provided

pro bono services to non-profit organizations assisting in reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico after the hurricanes of 2017 and to a foster home and adoption center.