



### Mariana Muñoz-Lara

#### Of Counsel

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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.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Employment

English Spanish

## 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

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### Publications

#### **New workplace protections for medical cannabis patients in Puerto Rico**

12 August 2021

The new law creates a new protected category under Puerto Rico antidiscrimination laws.

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#### **Employers in Puerto Rico must comply with new breastfeeding room requirements**

25 February 2021

Requiring employers to provide a private, safe and hygienic space.

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#### **Puerto Rico: Employers must establish workplace harassment protocols – guidelines are available**

23 February 2021

Employers in Puerto Rico have until August 2, 2021 to adopt protocols on workplace harassment.

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#### **Puerto Rico: Legal and practical aspects of international arbitration**

26 October 2020

Parties benefit from this legal framework to solve their disputes when conducting business in Puerto Rico.

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#### **Puerto Rico expands maternity leave for adopting mothers**

1 September 2020

The legislation applies to all women working in the private and public sectors in Puerto Rico.

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### **Puerto Rico enacts act prohibiting workplace harassment**

28 August 2020

The law creates a new course of action for employees and imposes additional responsibilities on employers. It is effective immediately.

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### **Puerto Rico tightens restrictions and sanctions for businesses to control continued spread of COVID-19**

26 August 2020

The Executive Order aims to significantly tighten restrictions to control the continued spread of COVID-19.

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### **Amid spike in positive cases, Puerto Rico tightens restrictions for businesses and tourism**

21 July 2020

The restrictions impact certain businesses, particularly in the food and beverage, entertainment and tourism industries.

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### **Puerto Rico lockdown lifted; most businesses and tourism reopen**

18 June 2020

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

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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

## Events

### Previous

#### Software and technology licenses in LatAm and Cross-Border Deals

18 November 2021 | 11:30 am EST - 12:30 pm EST

Webinar

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## NEWS

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#### DLA Piper advises Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority in its issuance of US\$1.4 billion of Series 2020A and 2020B senior lien revenue refunding bonds

8 January 2021

DLA Piper represented the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) in its issuance of US\$1.4 billion of Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A (Senior Lien) and Federally Taxable Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B (Senior Lien).

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## MEDIA MENTIONS:

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

## PRO BONO

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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.