

Fermin Miguel Mendez
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Education

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL, Ann Arbor, MI **J.D., May 2015**

- *Honors:* Merit Scholarship (Three Years); Juan Tienda Summer Fellowship (awarded to a student serving the Latino Community via summer public service)
- *Activities:* Articles Editor, *Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review*; Board Member, Latino Law Students Association; Member, Black Law Students Association; Mentor/Board Member, Hustle & Grow Program

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA **A.B., Comparative Study of Religion, May 2011**

- *Honors:* National Wrestling Coaches Association DI top academic team (2010 and 2011 seasons); Harvard Wrestling Beck Family Unsung Hero Award (2010); Knights of Columbus Outstanding College Council Award (2009)
- *Activities:* Varsity Member, Harvard DI Wrestling Team; President, Harvard Knights of Columbus; Member, Student Mental Health Liaisons

Academic Appointments

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Law **July 2026—Present**

Founding Director, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Clinic, Professor of Law, Clinical Professor of Law, Tenure

- Create first transactional law clinic at the College of Law to serve the entrepreneurial ecosystem at the larger University.

Albany Law School, Albany, NY

July 2021—June 2026

Director, Community Economic Development Clinic; Associate Professor of Law with Clinical Tenure

- Direct the Community Economic Development Clinic, and teach a weekly seminar; lead classes on interviewing, securities, contract drafting, DEI, client counseling, negotiation, and public speaking.
- Directly supervise second and third year law students representing entrepreneurs, startups, small businesses, nonprofits, and community members in a variety of transactional and intellectual property matters across NY's Capital Region.
- Frequently serve as judge for local business pitch competitions.
- Oversee community office hours and brief legal advice clinics.
- Source and develop community partnerships with local entrepreneurship and economic development organizations.
- Serve as faculty advisor to the Latin American Law Student Association
- Serve on faculty committees for DEI, admissions, and faculty culture.

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI

August 2018—June 2021

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Entrepreneurship Clinic

- Co-taught the Entrepreneurship Clinic seminar; lead classes on interviewing, client selection, ethics, research, securities, transactional drafting, financing, equity compensation, and negotiation.
- Directly supervised second and third year law students representing southeastern Michigan entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses in wide variety of transactional and intellectual property legal matters, including entity formation, trademark, and securities.
- Led students in conducting weekly virtual community office hours (formerly at three different Ann Arbor locations).
- Planned the Entrepreneurship Clinic's 2019 annual Ann Arbor entrepreneurial ecosystem tour and assisted in the planning of its 2018 annual Detroit entrepreneurial ecosystem tour.
- Oversaw and managed the Entrepreneurship Clinic's startup law blog.
- Designed and taught a "Contracts Lab", a practical drafting module for first year law students, during Fall 2019.
- Served as a faculty advisor to the Latino Law Students Association and the Black Law Students Association.

Professional Experience

FM Legal PLC, MI & NY

November 2018—Present

Sole Member

- Advise, early-stage ventures, and venture-backed companies on matters of general corporate law, business, securities, compliance, due diligence analysis, and other related subject areas.

Beat the Streets Detroit, Inc., Detroit, MI

September 2014—Present

Board Member; Head Wrestling Coach

- Develop and oversee organizational strategy for community outreach, regional collaboration; youth development, educational enrichment, and college readiness; serve as head wrestling coach for Patton Park Recreation Center team.
- Manage a staff of over ten people, consisting of coaches, tutors, and administrative assistants.

- Created the annual Detroit Girls Wrestling Clinic, a first of its kind wrestling clinic aimed at increasing female participation in wrestling within the City.
- Partnered with USA Wrestling, US Wrestling Foundation, and the Marine Corps to host a wrestling clinic for over 400 attendees featuring Olympic team members and a fundraiser dinner of over 200 attendees.

Clark Hill PLC, Detroit, MI

March 2017—July 2018

Associate Attorney

- Advised entrepreneurs, venture-backed companies, and middle market companies on matters of general corporate law, business, securities, compliance, due diligence analysis, and mergers and acquisitions.
- Conducted research regarding regulatory compliance, including topics such as blue sky laws, crowdfunding, and privacy.
- Drafted various transaction related documents and agreements, including Private Placement Memoranda, Asset Purchase Agreements, Membership Interest Purchase Agreements, Note Purchase Agreements, and Convertible Notes.

Varnum LLP, Detroit, MI

September 2015—March 2017

Associate Attorney

- Advised entrepreneurs and early-stage ventures on matters of general corporate law, the sale of securities, privacy, and intellectual property.
- Assisted clients on mergers & acquisitions and other corporate transactions in various technology industries.
- Served as member of the MiSpringboard program, counseling participants and establishing referral partners.

Michigan Law Entrepreneurship Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI

January 2014—May 2014; September 2014—May 2015

Student Attorney; Advanced Student Attorney

- Counseled student entrepreneurial ventures on matters of general corporate law, business dynamics, intellectual property, and securities.
- Conducted client-specific research; drafted, reviewed, and negotiated contract provisions for Nondisclosure Agreements, IP Assignments, Restricted Stock Agreements, Supply Agreements, and Option Agreements.

Ford Motor Company—Office of the General Counsel, Dearborn, MI

May 2014—August 2014

Summer Law Clerk

- Drafted memoranda for Corporate Compliance, Litigation, Tax, and Safety and Regulation groups.
- Conducted research exploring the legal implications of connected vehicles and the Internet of Things.

New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark, NJ

May 2013—July 2013

Legal Intern

- Conducted a 50 state survey on the effects of recent neuroscience research on juvenile justice reform.
- Investigated potential strategies for “deep end” system reform of New Jersey’s Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.
- Advocated in the NJ Senate for the passage of the NJ Opportunity to Compete Act (prisoner reentry legislation).

Service

Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, Albany, NY

March 2023—Present

Board Member

- Serve as board member of local community development financial institution and as a member on the community investment trust committee.

Work in Progress

- Supercharging the Crowd for Good

Presentations

- Presenter “**Company Creation 101**” LaunchX, Ann Arbor, MI July 2019.
- Presenter “**Legal Basics for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs**” ProsperUS Detroit, Detroit, MI June 2017.

Academic Conferences

- Attended 2019’s Transactional Clinical Conference, Berkeley, CA.
- Attended 2019’s The Association of American Law School’s Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, CA.
- Attended 2019’s Midwest Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Attended 2020’s The Association of American Law School and The Clinical Legal Education Association’s Joint Virtual Clinical Conference.

- Attended 2020's The Clinical Legal Education Association Virtual New Clinicians Conference.
- Presenter "Let your Light Shine Through: Empowering Students to Harness their Unique Personalities in their Clinical Legal Work" 2022's The Association of American Law School's Clinical Conference.
- Presenter "Measuring Outcomes in Transactional Legal Clinics" 2022's The Association of American Law School's Virtual Clinical Conference.
- Presenter Works in Progress Session- "Supercharging the Crowd for Good" 2023's The Association of American Law School's Clinical Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Attended 2025's Transactional Clinical Conference, Detroit, MI.

Bar Admission

- Michigan, 2015
- New York, 2021