



**Patricia Gonzalez** was born in El Salvador and came to Canada as a refugee after fleeing the country's civil war. Her early life experiences instilled in her a deep appreciation for justice, safety, and the rule of law. After spending several years in San Francisco, her family was granted refugee status and settled in Calgary, Alberta, where she completed her education from elementary school through to law school.

Patricia's passion for the law began to take shape while she was volunteering in Mexico with an international sustainable development program supporting impoverished Indigenous communities. Witnessing the transformative impact of legal advocacy and policy in these contexts inspired her to pursue a career in law. She was initially drawn to international law and sustainable development — fields in which Canadian lawyers are uniquely positioned to advocate without fear of retribution, a privilege she deeply values given her background.

Her academic journey reflects her commitment to both linguistic and cultural growth. Patricia earned a Bachelor's degree in English with a Minor in French from the University of Calgary in 2007. During her studies, she participated in a two-semester academic exchange in Tours, France, immersing herself in French language and culture.

Patricia began her career in community service in 2006 as an employment counsellor at Immigrant Services Calgary. There, she assisted newcomers with employment readiness, resume and cover letter writing, and job search strategies — work that reinforced her dedication to immigrant communities. She continued in this role during her first year of law school. While in law school, Patricia also gained public service experience through summer positions at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as part-time work during her third year at the Alberta Utilities Commission. These roles helped shape her interest in administrative law and regulatory matters.

After earning her law degree in 2010, Patricia articulated with a boutique law firm in Calgary and joined their litigation group upon being called to the bar. In 2013, she relocated to Edmonton to join Emery Jamieson LLP, where she practiced general litigation, employment law, and immigration.

In 2017, Patricia returned to Calgary and joined Parlee McLaws LLP, where her practice has been focused on employment law, insurance defence, and commercial litigation. She is currently a partner in the firm's employment law group, where she continues her commitment to equity, advocacy, and access to justice. Patricia has also remained deeply engaged in the legal community. From 2017 to 2022, she volunteered as a member of the Canadian Bar Association Labour and Employment Alberta (South) Section Executive Committee. Through this role, she contributed to fostering professional development and dialogue within the legal profession.

Outside of her legal practice, Patricia enjoys spending time with her family and treasures the moments she shares with her father, who is living with advanced Parkinson's disease. These personal experiences further ground her commitment to compassion, service, and resilience — values she brings to both her professional and community roles.

Patricia offers a diverse perspective to the legal profession — one shaped by lived experience, community service, and a dedication to inclusive, ethical practice. She would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Canadian Bar Association Alberta Branch as a board member, supporting its mission of fostering a vibrant, engaged, and forward-thinking legal community.