

# OUR HOUSE IS YOUR HOME

KARLA PEREZ, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW (2017)



*The New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline programs support high school, college, and law students as they pursue careers in the legal profession. Diversity Pipeline alumna Karla Perez, a 2017 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, shares her City Bar Story. She is currently an Associate and Assistant Counsel at Societe Generale.*

## WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE FIRST TIME?

The first time I walked into the New York City Bar Association was for an interview as part of the Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program. Little then did I know the role the City Bar would play in my path towards a legal career. I soon returned to the City Bar for the Constitutional Rights Symposium the Launching Your Career Professional Development Series, and later attended the LSAT/Law School Prep Series, which really helped prepare me for my 1L year. I served as a law Fellow when I was in law school, assisting with the Office for Diversity Benchmarking Research, and helped bring the UT Center for Women in Law program to the City Bar.

## WHO ARE YOUR MENTORS?

I have several people who I look to for advice and guidance. For me, at the City Bar that has been Gabrielle Brown. Gabrielle has constantly made herself available to discuss any worries or concerns and provide feedback. In the years that I have known her, she has helped keep me grounded and moving forward.

## IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO YOURSELF 10 YEARS AGO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would tell my younger self: Be more confident and do not let setbacks derail you. Stay focused, be persistent and put in the work.



KARLA PEREZ

## WERE THERE ANY SURPRISES ALONG YOUR CAREER PATH?

Absolutely – there have been many surprises along my career path and I am sure there will continue to be many others. In the past, I had a very "fixed" mindset and did not deal with surprises well. I am working on having more of a "growth" mindset and embracing surprises. I try to remind myself that sometimes what looks like a failure is actually a redirection, and that I should take each surprise, whether positive or negative, as an opportunity for growth.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CITY BAR?

The City Bar has had a great impact on my life and on my career. I am grateful for everything that I have learned, everyone that I have met and everything I have had the opportunity to experience because of the City Bar.