

# LEONOR PERRETTA

---

8831 South Redwood Road, Suite A • West Jordan, UT 84088  
Leonor@perrettalaw.com • Day: (801) 263-1213  
www.perrettalaw.com

---

## QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE

- Twenty one years of experience litigating immigration cases before the Immigration Courts in Salt Lake City, Denver and other locations incorporating all aspects of immigration law and appellate practice with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth and Tenth Circuit. Handling and supervising 500-700 active cases.
  - Articulate, engaged, and broad-minded legal professional skilled in exercising independent judgment in full consideration of precedent, argumentation, applicable legal statutes, and mitigating factors to reach final decisions.
  - Strong record of dedication serving various communities in need in both paid and volunteer positions contributing to comprehensive understanding of individual and community rights.
  - Established management and administration proficiencies to oversee court proceedings, supervise four attorneys and staff, maintain accurate records, and comply with all applicable regulations and guidelines.
  - Member, Utah State Bar, since 1996; hold Juris Doctor Degree, earned in 1996.
  - Bilingual: fluent in both English and Spanish.
- 

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PERRETTA LAW OFFICE (PREVIOUSLY: UTZINGER & PERRETTA)

**Senior Attorney**, 6/1997 to Present

Manage 600 to 700 open cases while overseeing all aspects of independent law firm employing five attorneys and staff and law clerks. Build and sustain relationships with diverse international clients seeking immigrant, non-immigrant, and citizenship status. Provide legal advice, litigation assistance, and representation before US CIS, CBP, and ICE. Write trial memoranda, pre-trial briefs, appellate briefs and motion practice. Present applications for relief involving asylum, cancellation of removal, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), section 212c waivers, adjustment of status, removal of conditions, etc. Meet directly with clients to address pressing issues and ensure legal compliance. Consult with employers to ascertain legal status of employees and discuss solutions.

Present information regarding VAWA cases and educate community members regarding immigration laws. Work with community based organizations by providing outreach and education. Recruit, hire, mentor, and train attorneys and staff.

- Worked on numerous precedent-setting court decisions including *Galvez-Letona v. Kirkpatrick*, 54 F.Supp.2d 1218 (D. Utah 1999) and *Perales-Cumpean v. Gonzales*, 429 F.3d 977 (10th Cir. 2005).
- Actively involved in federal legislative matters including providing instrumental contributions to convince the US Congress to modify law pertaining to the naturalization of disabled persons as expressed in Senate Bill 2812 (June 29, 2000) and amending section 337(a) of the Immigration & Naturalization Act (INA) providing authority to waive the oath of allegiance for disabled naturalization applicants.

MULTI CULTURAL LEGAL CENTER, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Contract VAWA Attorney**, 12/2003 to 12/2005

*Continued...*

Assisted survivors of domestic violence to obtain legal status in the US. Met with clients to determine eligibility under VAWA. Prepared case, forms, affidavits and supporting evidence for VAWA self-petition. Prepared legal memoranda, motions to reopen, and appeals in VAWA cases. Represented VAWA clients in removal proceedings. Provided training and community outreach with women's shelters and other community-based organizations.

RASMUSSEN & MINER, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Attorney at Law/Law Clerk**, 6/1995 to 6/1997

Handled family and business immigration law, including status adjustment, naturalization, labor certification, non-immigrant and immigrant visas, and deportation hearings. Prepared pleadings for civil court cases involving medical malpractice and personal injury. Represented parents during juvenile court hearings addressing parental rights terminations.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Volunteer Law Clerk / Intern**, 1995-1997

Provided low-income clients with affordable immigration law counseling and advising services. Interviewed potential asylum clients. Prepared asylum cases for filing by composing forms, supporting evidence, and affidavits. Assisted Attorney in trial preparation.

STATE OF UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE – CRIMINAL APPEALS DIVISION, Utah State Capitol Complex,  
**Law Clerk**, 1/1995 to 1/1996

Researched issues relating to criminal appeals. Drafted legal memoranda and appellate briefs.

---

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Juris Doctor**, 1996

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH COLLEGE OF LAW – Salt Lake City, UT

**Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology**, 1993

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – Salt Lake City, UT

**German Language Studies**, 1988 to 1991

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY – Pocatello, ID

---

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Utah State Bar, 1996 to Present (Bar #7596)

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), 1995 to Present

*Immigration Court Liaison* 2008 to present

*Secretary & Treasurer*, 2006

*Liaison, AILA / US CIS & AILA / EOIR* 2005-2006

*Chapter Chair*, 1999 to 2000

*Vice Chair*, 1997 to 1999

*Speaker/Trainer*

Board Member-Utah Bar Foundation 2015-2016  
Board President-Utah Bar Foundation 2015-2016  
Board Member-Immigrant Legal Services 2016  
Board Member-ACLU of Utah 2011-12

## **Awards**

2016  
Utah Minority Bar Association-“Distinguished Lawyer of the Year”  
2017  
Utah Bar-“Outstanding Mentor”

## **Presentations**

2016  
Asylum Fundamentals-2 Day Conference  
2015  
University of Utah-College of Law: Presepectives: Expert Views on Refugee and Asylum Issues  
2008-present  
AILA CLE Presentations-Multiple

## **Volunteer Work**

Pro Bono Coordinator for Detained Representation in Immigration Court, 2007-2015.  
2016-17 Assisted Holy Cross Ministries to develop a pro bono asylum program to train & mentor attorneys representing asylum seekers fleeing persecution.  
2014-present: Community Legal Clinic with the S.J. Quinney College of Law  
2012-present: Know Your Rights and DACA clinics in the community