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Ms. Alcalde's practice areas consist of U.S. Immigration and Nationality Law, Complex Removal Litigation in Federal Immigration Court, Criminal Law Defense and Municipal Court Litigation.

For the past seventeen years Michele has specialized in the defense of foreign nationals facing deportation on various levels. Her experience in the Municipal and Superior Courts of the State of New Jersey, makes her uniquely qualified to appropriately guide and explain to clients the immigration consequences of criminal offense charges and convictions. She represents clients in Post-Conviction Relief matters related to criminal convictions for aggravated felonies and crimes involving moral turpitude leading to mandatory detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and subsequent deportation. She appears frequently in Immigration courts on complex matters.

Michele is a former Municipal Court Prosecutor for the Cities of Newark and Paterson, New Jersey and was the first Hispanic female Municipal Court Public Defender in the City of Paterson, appointed by Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres in 2008. She also has been appointed by the Office of Attorney Ethics and has served as a member of the District XI Ethics Committee from 2008-2010. On March 27, 2012, she was appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to the Municipal Court Certification Committee, which is a seven member committee designed to prepare the examination and review process for all attorneys in New Jersey wishing to be Certified as Municipal Court Trial Attorneys.

Michele is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA), the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Haydn Proctor Inn of Court. She has served as a panelist for the New Jersey State Bar Association and Federal Bar Association lecturing on Immigration Law, where she has instructed other attorneys on how best to represent clients on complex issues of law combining criminal, family and immigration. Her most recent publication is, In Status and Out of Status, An Immigration Primer for the Family Law Practitioner,

New Jersey Family Lawyer Volume 31 page 107 (February 2011). For the past two years Michele has lectured the NJSBA ICLE seminar, "New Jersey Municipal Court Practice 102", which is a course designed by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education to teach new lawyers a practical procedural primer in client representation before the Municipal Court.

Michele earned her Juris Doctorate in Law from Rutgers University School of Law - Camden, NJ in 2000. She is admitted to practice in New Jersey, before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. She clerked for Senior Federal Appellate Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise and The Honorable Sebastian P. Lombardi in Essex County, New Jersey.

A Word From Michele Alcalde as you consider scheduling a consultation for legal services:

"I have built a reputation for the past 15 years of being knowledgeable, compassionate, and creatively strategizing on the matters I defend. I am well known in the Immigration community and the community I service for my honest assessments of immigration cases. I know the despair family members face when they feel there is no one to turn to after Immigration and Customs Enforcement or a local law enforcement agency detains their family member. I also understand the frustrations that many face in dealing with the Immigration Offices administratively; either in Consular cases or Appeal matters. I am willing to listen carefully to all factual aspects of the case and through my intuitiveness decide what the best, next approach is to the immigration matter at hand. I have taken difficult matters involving post-conviction relief that seemed hopeless and found that through my diligent work and aggressive lawyering, my clients were able to seek the relief they needed through the Immigration Court in order to remain in the United States legally. If it is at all possible, I will provide you with an option to remain in the United States; however, if your case has absolutely no legal remedy, I will say so. That is my word."