

# SHEILA NIAZ

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota** St. Paul, Minnesota

Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Wilhelmina M. Wright, Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz February 2023-Present

- ▶ Responsible for all aspects of assigned civil and criminal cases from inception to conclusion; review complaints, petitions, motions, and pleadings that have been filed to identify and analyze the issues involved and basis for relief.
- ▶ Perform legal research as required, identify problem areas, make recommendations, and offer solutions in assigned cases; provide information and advice to the Judge in connection with pending litigation; draft appropriate recommendations and substantive orders.

**Greenberg Traurig, LLP** Minneapolis, Minnesota

Intellectual Property Associate June 2022 - February 2023

- ▶ Prepared and prosecuted design, hardware and software patent applications, including applications in the machine learning, IoT devices, software-as-a-service, web services, data platforms, cryptography, blockchain, financial technology, augmented reality/virtual reality, electronic payment processing, and warehouse automation space.
- ▶ Conducted intellectual property litigation, which includes producing infringement and/or invalidity analyses, drafting briefs before the District Court, Minnesota Court of Appeals, and the Patent and Trademark Trial and Appeals Boards, appearing for court hearings, developing litigation strategy, and preparing and practicing for trial.
- ▶ Educated and coached clients on legal risk issues and fashion solutions that balance legal risk with client objectives; advise clients on a variety of copyright, advertising, licensing, branding, domain names, sweepstakes, and internet enforcement matters.

**Merchant & Gould, P.A.** Minneapolis, Minnesota

Associate Patent Attorney, Law Clerk December 2019 – June 2022

- ▶ Delivered end-to-end legal solutions encompassing patent applications, litigation, enforcement, risk management, privacy frameworks, and data security.
- ▶ Recipient, Merchant & Gould Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, 2021

**SRF Consulting Group, Inc.** Minneapolis, Minnesota

Software Engineer May 2016 – September 2020

- ▶ Developed software applications to assist with engineering design tools, GIS, and CAD utilities.
- ▶ As a full stack developer, created responsive and interactive web and mobile applications that interact with different database platforms and data sources through various API technologies.

## EDUCATION

**Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Saint Paul, MN** May 2020

Juris Doctor; Certificate in Patent Law (Bar: MN, 2020; U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, patent practitioner)

- ▶ Editor-in-Chief, Vol 11.2; Executive Editor, Vol 11.1 - Cybaris Intellectual Property Law Review, 2019-20
- ▶ Semifinalist, AIPLA Giles S. Rich Patent Moot Court Competition, 2019

**University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, MN** May 2017

Bachelor's, Computer Science

## INTERESTS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ▶ Treasurer, Hon. Jimmie V. Reyna IP American Inns of Court, 2024-25; Member, 2019-Present
- ▶ Board Member, Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs) Twin Cities Ch. Advisory Bd., 2021-Present
- ▶ Board Member, Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association, 2022-Present
- ▶ Chair, Intellectual Property Practice Group, Federal Bar Association, Minnesota Chapter, 2022-Present
- ▶ Nine-time marathon runner