

# SHEILA NIAZ

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Norton Rose Fulbright, LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### Associate, Litigation

July 2024 - Present

- ▶ Represent clients in complex intellectual property, product liability, consumer protection, and class-action matters. Draft dispositive and discovery motions, appellate briefs, and trial filings; manage fact and expert discovery; advise on risk management and regulatory compliance. Leverage prior engineering experience to analyze technical evidence and expert reports.

### U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

St. Paul, Minnesota

Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Wilhelmina M. Wright, Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz Feb. 2023 - July 2024

- ▶ Managed civil and criminal dockets; drafted substantive orders, recommendations, and bench memoranda; conducted legal research on constitutional, statutory, and procedural issues.

### Prior Experience:

- ▶ Associate, Greenberg Traurig LLP (IP litigation & patent prosecution)
- ▶ Associate Patent Attorney, Merchant & Gould P.A. (IP litigation & prosecution)
- ▶ Software Engineer, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

## 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 IP Law Review
- ▶ Semifinalist, AIPLA Giles S. Rich Patent Moot Court Competition

### University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

May 2017

B.A., Computer Science

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- ▶ Treasurer, Hon. Jimmie V. Reyna Intellectual Property American Inn of Court (2023–Present; Member 2019–Present)
- ▶ Eighth Circuit Representative, Board of Directors, Younger Lawyers Division, Federal Bar Association (2025–Present)
- ▶ Co-Chair, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid Associates' Giving Campaign (2025–2026)
- ▶ Board Member, Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2024–Present)
- ▶ Board Member, Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association (2022–Present; Secretary 2025–Present)
- ▶ Advisory Board Member, ChIPs Twin Cities Chapter (2021–Present)
- ▶ Chair, Intellectual Property Practice Group, Minnesota Chapter (2022–2025)
- ▶ Active pro bono practice, including civil-rights litigation, domestic-violence advocacy, special assistant public-defender matters, housing representation and support for entrepreneurs in underserved communities.

## SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ▶ Panelist, "Muslims in Law," University of Minnesota Law School (Nov 2025)
- ▶ Speaker, "IPR Estoppel: What Judges Need to Know Now," U.S. District Court - District of Minnesota Judicial In-Court Seminar (Sept 2025)
- ▶ Panelist, "Diversity in the Courtroom: What Every Trial Lawyer Should Know," Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Diversity Seminar (May 2025)
- ▶ Speaker, "Expert Witnesses: A Practical Primer," Hon. Jimmie V. Reyna Inn of Court CLE (Apr 2023)

## INTERESTS

Distance running (nine-time marathoner), reading, baking, chess, photography