

# 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 St. 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

- Speaker, "Greenwashing Under Scrutiny: Navigating Legal Risks in Environmental Claims," Federal Bar Association (Nov 2025)
- 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)

## INTERESTS

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