



JW | CARTER LAW

Probate, Trust & Business Trial Attorneys

Sarah Maldonado, Partner
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Sarah Maldonado is a highly experienced Texas litigator with more than ten years of dedicated practice in probate and trust law. Her impressive track record includes successfully litigating hundreds of cases statewide, where her deep understanding of estate litigation ensures her clients' interests are fiercely and effectively represented. Beyond her exceptional trial work, Sarah leads JW Carter Law's appellate practice, providing comprehensive guidance to clients throughout their legal journey.

As a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 2010) and The University of Texas at Austin (2007), Sarah demonstrates a strong commitment to advancing legal knowledge. She and firm partner, Jimmy Carter, dedicated three years to a comprehensive research project, analyzing Texas probate appellate decisions dating back to the 1800s. Sarah actively leverages this research in her practice to improve probate litigation for the legal community and secure optimal outcomes for her clients. In 2025, the San Antonio Business Journal recognized Sarah's outstanding achievements with a "40 Under 40" Award, highlighting her exceptional skills as an investigator and litigator, as well as her significant industry and community involvement.

Outside the courtroom, Sarah serves as a Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association's San Antonio and South Texas Chapter, offering support and resources to families affected by dementia. In her free time, she cherishes spending time with her husband, Ricky, and their two daughters.

Representative Cases

- *In re Crapps, Deceased*, 2003 WL 7006289 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2023, no pet.)
- *In re Estate of Burns, Deceased*, 619 S.W.3d 747 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2020, pet. denied)
- *In re Estate of Mahaffey, Deceased*, 2019 WL 7196618 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2019, no pet.)
- *Arsate v. Hill*, District Court of Texas, Bexar County. February 1, 2018
- *Salinas v. Splash Transport*, District Court of Texas, Bexar County. January 21, 2016

- *Benham v. Lynch*, No. 2011 WL 381665 (Tex. App.—San Antonio Feb. 2, 2011, no pet.)

Education

- St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D., 2010
- The University of Texas at Austin, 2007

Certifications and Accolades

- 40 Under 40 Award – San Antonio Business Journal (2025)
- Texas Legal Awards – Finalist for the Legal Innovators Award (2024)
- Top Lawyer in Trust and Estate Litigation – S.A. Scene Magazine (2023 – present)
- Top Lawyer in Insurance Defense – S.A. Scene Magazine (2017)
- Order of the Barristers (2010)
- Outstanding Moot Court Award – St. Mary's University (2010)

Professional Affiliations and Community Involvement

- Texas Bar College (2024 – present)
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow, (2023 – present)
- San Antonio Estate Planner's Council, Member (2023 – present)
- San Antonio Bar Association (2023 – present)
- Alzheimer's Association – San Antonio and South Texas Chapter (2023 – present)
- Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity (2010 – present)

Articles/Presentations

- *Analyzing the Past, Shaping the Future: A Data-Driven Approach to Probate Litigation*, presentation to San Antonio Estate Planners Council at the Docket Call in Probate Court series, February 16, 2024.