

NINA PERALES

Nina Perales is Vice President of Litigation for MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In that role, Ms. Perales supervises the legal staff and litigation docket in MALDEF's offices throughout the United States.

Ms. Perales is best known for her work in voting rights. She tried and argued successfully in the U.S. Supreme Court the first case that ruled in favor of a Latino vote dilution claim under the Voting Rights Act. *LULAC v. Perry* (2006). She also secured the first ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that struck down racial gerrymandering of Latinos in *Abbott v. Perez* (2018).

In 2017, Ms. Perales won the first court order forcing a jurisdiction into federal voting oversight in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's invalidation of the Voting Rights Act's preclearance trigger (*Patino v. City of Pasadena, Texas*). Ms. Perales also led the challenge under the National Voter Registration Act to an Arizona voter registration law and secured a favorable ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in *Arizona v. ITCA* (2013).

In addition, Ms. Perales specializes in immigrants' rights litigation, including leading the case striking down an anti-immigrant housing ordinance in Farmers Branch, Texas and the defense of DACA in a multi-state challenge to that initiative.

Ms. Perales earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.