


# ADVOCATE FOR DIVERSITY

DANA DOMBEY, MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

 Courtesy of McDermott Will & Emery LLP

## What experiences from your upbringing influenced you to pursue a career in law?

**DD:** Growing up in Caracas, Venezuela, during a period of political turmoil, I witnessed firsthand the deep impact that government action – or inaction – can have on individual lives and societal structures. Experiencing this instability from a young age, I became acutely aware of the importance of justice, accountability, and the rule of law.

Engaging in political activism at a young age showed me both the power and the vulnerability of those who seek to uphold these principles in environments resistant to change. This experience instilled a deep sense of responsibility in me to advocate for fair systems and protect rights. Moving to the US with my family gave me an opportunity to channel these early influences into a career where I could contribute meaningfully to a system that values the law as a foundation for stability, fairness, and opportunity. Law became a natural path for me – a means to make a tangible difference, just as I had hoped for in my formative years in Venezuela.

## What unique perspectives do you bring as a Latina lawyer?

**DD:** Every lawyer's practice is informed by their upbringing and environment. After growing up in the beautiful Jewish community of Caracas, Venezuela, and immigrating to South Florida as teenager, I approach the job with great appreciation for diverse perspectives, which allows me to connect meaningfully with clients and colleagues from a range of backgrounds. In addition, understanding different viewpoints helps me navigate negotiations more effectively and seek innovative solutions. My background has taught me to listen carefully and to approach legal challenges with a blend of empathy and strategic thinking.

Understanding that fewer than 4% of law firm partners are diverse women, I am

also committed to advocating for greater representation and inclusivity within the legal field. I recognize the importance of creating spaces where diverse voices are not just heard but also valued and respected. By being both a role model and a strong advocate for diversity, I aim to pave the way for future Latina lawyers, showing them that they can succeed and make a significant impact in corporate law.

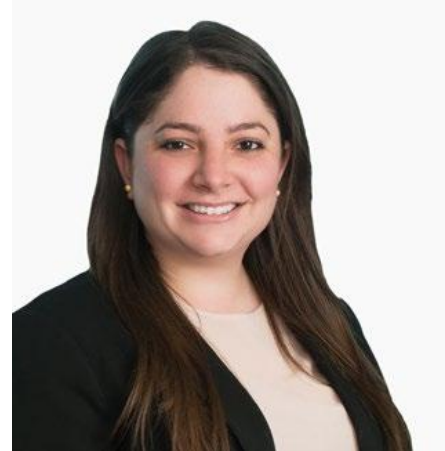
## What are your unique assets as a lawyer and how do you use them to advocate for a client effectively?

**DD:** I bring a creative mindset to each client's challenges, always seeking solutions that go beyond the conventional path. When structuring transactions or tackling complex issues, I dig deep to uncover opportunities others might overlook. By combining creativity with thorough preparation, I'm able to provide clients with effective, customized strategies that give them confidence and clarity, even in the most complicated situations.

Equally important are my commitment and work ethic, along with my dedication to building strong, trusted relationships. I care deeply about each client and am fully invested in understanding their unique needs and objectives. As a connector, I enjoy finding resources and facilitating introductions that help clients build relationships and access the support they need. This collaborative approach allows me to be a true partner in their journey, working tirelessly to deliver outcomes that align with their vision and provide lasting value.

## How do you stay motivated in your legal career? How do you deal with challenges?

**DD:** My motivation is deeply tied to the strong, enduring relationships I've developed with clients and colleagues. Seeing a positive outcome or helping a client navigate a complex issue successfully is incredibly rewarding. It reminds



me of the purpose behind my work and pushes me to keep learning and refining my skills, and it also has allowed me to become a trusted advisor and build personal connections that I value greatly.

When faced with challenges, I approach them as opportunities to innovate and grow. I break down complex problems, analyze them from multiple angles, and remain open to creative solutions that might not be obvious at first glance. Perhaps more importantly, I also consistently rely on the support and insight of my colleagues, knowing that I can trust them to help me navigate difficult situations, bring a fresh perspective, and help me find the best path forward. I've learned that persistence and adaptability are key, and I see each challenge as a chance to strengthen my skills and deepen my understanding.

## What are your long-term goals in the legal field?

**DD:** I hope to continue on my current path by deepening my knowledge and skill in healthcare and corporate law while continuing to build strong relationships with clients, take an active role in leading our partnership, and mentor and sponsor my colleagues as they grow in their careers. I believe in the importance of contributing to a collaborative, inclusive legal community, and I want to play an active role in shaping a future where diverse perspectives are valued, and everyone can succeed. ●