

Jillian Duran

Education

University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California
Juris Doctor candidate, expected May 2021

Activities:

- Transactional Law Team, 1L Associate Nov. 2018 – Current
- La Raza Law Students Association, Member Aug. 2018 – Current
- Business Law Society, Member Aug. 2018 – Current
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Member Aug. 2018 – Current
- Office of Law Development, Work Study Fellow Aug. 2018 – Current

Arizona State University Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, Phoenix, Arizona
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication, Dec. 2014
Honors: *summa cum laude*

Experience

Domestic Violence Clinic, Chula Vista, California

Pro Bono Legal Aid Aug. 2018 – Current

- Assist clients in filing domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders.
- Draft client declarations in both English and Spanish.

NBCUniversal, San Diego, California

Producer July 2015 – Aug. 2018

- Oversaw all elements for the creation of an hour-long newscast.
- Managed story producers and reporter assignments.
- Wrote scripts and teases using iNEWS.

Community Involvement

- Provisional Mentor, Junior League of San Diego June 2018 – Current
- Junior League of San Diego, Food and Wine Fundraising Committee June 2015 – June 2018

Honors and Awards

- Emmy Award - Best Large Market Morning Newscast (2018)
- Best Video Newscast - Society for Professional Journalists, San Diego Chapter (2018)
- Best Breaking News Coverage - Society for Professional Journalists, San Diego Chapter (2018)
- Emmy Award - Best Small Market Evening Newscast (2016)
- Golden Mike - Best News Broadcast – 60 Minutes (2015)
- Golden Mike - Best Coverage of a Live News Event (2015)

My early 20's aged me quickly. I worked in news, where I lived for the late nights, the high-stress situations, and sleepless nights. As a 1L, my nights are still late, my stress levels are still high, and I still don't sleep enough. Not much has changed since my producing days (except now I get holidays off). However, my prior work experience will help me diversify the legal profession because it taught me the importance of telling everyone's story, especially the stories of those who may not be heard otherwise.

My love for storytelling started back in 5th grade. Santa Ana winds were fanning the Cedar Fire. Thousands of San Diegans were losing their homes. I remember watching the news reports and at that moment, I decided I was going to be a journalist because I wanted to tell people's stories. My passion led me to my first internship at NBC San Diego when I was 16 years old. I was placed in the internship through the Emma Bowen Foundation, which promotes diversity in media by creating a pipeline for talented students of color. Every summer, the Emma Bowen Foundation would send its 300 nationwide fellows to a summit in New York City, where we would spend a week learning about the importance of diversity in media and storytelling. I always knew I wanted to tell people's stories for a living, but this summit made me realize how important it is to tell people's stories who may not otherwise be heard.

While at NBC San Diego, the highly contentious immigration stories opened my eyes to a world I did not even know existed, even though I grew up less than an hour from the border. One situation that stands out in my mind is the first migrant caravan that made its way from Central America to the San Ysidro port of entry. As one of the few people in the newsroom who spoke both English and Spanish, I was assigned to a majority of the station's caravan coverage so I could translate what the asylum seekers were saying. And what they were saying opened my eyes to a world I did not even know existed.

While at NBC, the highly contentious immigration stories opened my eyes to a world I did not even know existed, even though I grew up less than an hour from the border. One situation that stands out in my mind is the first migrant caravan. As one of the few people in the newsroom who spoke both English and Spanish, I headed the station's caravan coverage. The stories of some asylum seekers are imprinted on my brain. Though I was aware of the violence that plagues Central America, hearing and translating these peoples' heart-wrenching stories gave me new perspective on what they were trying to escape.

Working as a news producer generated a weird mix of exhilaration and heartbreak in me, but that was not what drew me to law school. It was actually a routine company training that inspired me to pursue law. Every year, NBC would send its corporate attorneys to every station to discuss ways news teams can avoid litigation, such as knowing basic copyright and libel laws. Everyone hated the training – except me. And then it clicked: there is a niche intersection of storytelling and law that I had never even considered. After the training, I began researching possible career paths and found pursuing a law degree does not necessarily mean leaving my passion for storytelling behind. Now, I hope to take my industry experience use it to give me a unique perspective on how newsrooms operate, especially during breaking news. I can then take that insight and help my clients best meet their strategic goals.

It has been nearly ten years since I started in the news industry. Working in news taught me skills that will serve me well as an attorney. Being a lawyer, much like being a producer, can be stressful. However, I am confident I can not only handle it, but will thrive, because I have already spent years working through stressful situations. Working in news taught me how to handle contentious issues, last-minute changes, and quickly roll with any obstacle thrown at me – all while running on two hours of sleep and no coffee.