

# TEXAS LAW

## Fried Frank Selects Texas Law Graduate for MALDEF Fellowship

June 1, 2015 — Fried Frank, a New York-based law firm with offices in Washington, D.C., London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Shanghai, has awarded Texas Law graduate Alejandra Avila, '14, with its MALDEF Fellowship. Avila is the first Texas Law graduate to receive this prestigious award and will begin her fellowship in Fall 2015.

MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino litigation, advocacy and educational outreach organization. Founded in 1968, MALDEF's primary objective is the protection and promotion of the civil rights of Latinos living in the United States. It seeks to empower the Latino community to participate fully in American society through impact litigation, advocacy, research, community outreach, leadership development and education and the awarding of law school scholarships.

“We are very proud that Alejandra has been selected by Fried Frank to receive the highly competitive MALDEF Fellowship,” said Eden Harrington, director of the [William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law](#). “She has achieved a great deal as a student and we know she will be an outstanding attorney.”

As an entry-level lawyer, the fellowship allows Avila the opportunity to spend two years as a Fried Frank litigator and then two years as a staff attorney with MALDEF.

“During her time at Texas Law, Alejandra was an outstanding law student and major contributor to pro bono efforts, who provided true leadership and passion on public interest issues at the law school,” said Denise Gilman, director of the Immigration Clinic at the law school. “She represents the next generation of Latino leaders, and she is the perfect person to have been chosen for the MALDEF fellowship.”

Ms. Avila credits her research assistant stints with Professors Joseph Fishkin and Jennifer Laurin: “They both specialize in civil rights law and were extremely helpful to me in preparing for my Fried Frank interview and submitting a competitive application package.”

Avila attended Texas A&M International University and serves as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Micaela Alvarez on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in McAllen. While at Texas Law, she took part in the law school's Immigration Clinic and Transactional Worker Rights Clinic, and was the national representative for the Chicano Hispanic Law Students Association. Avila has also worked at The White House, U.S. Department of Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, and was a fellow for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica.

To learn more about the [Career Services Office's](#) public service programs, contact Nicole Simmons at 512-232-1160 or [nsimmons@law.utexas.edu](mailto:nsimmons@law.utexas.edu).