

**ABOUT THE LIZ PADILLA EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:**

This award honors Liz Padilla, a graduate of Cornell Law School, who joined the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project as a Pro Bono Coordinator/ Staff Attorney in December 2004. In June 2005, Liz was tragically killed in a road accident when she was biking to work. Liz approached each day with excitement, eagerly seeking opportunities to give back to her community, especially to those most in need of a helping hand. This award is dedicated to honoring her legacy of kindness and generosity and is given to an attorney who has demonstrated a commitment to the public service throughout their legal career, either by choosing a career in public service or by making pro bono work a priority. This award seeks to recognize an attorney who is attuned to the changing legal climate and has gone above and beyond by responding to the most pressing legal needs of the community.

**2020 AWARD RECIPIENT:**

**Lorraine Sabalja** was raised on Long Island and is a graduate of Quinnipiac University Law School. Following law school, she was a law clerk for the Honorable Susan M. Marzetta in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, where she was exposed to a broad range of general equity matters including guardianships, receiverships, temporary restraining orders, and trusts.

Looking to return to New York City, she later accepted an Associate position at a small litigation firm. She then settled into her first passion – non-profit work – as Assistant Counsel to Hadassah (a Women’s organization committed to building hospitals and equitable educational opportunities) with a focus on establishing donor charitable trusts, private giving and fundraising and subsequently continued this work for the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Feeling a call to the corporate world, Lorraine’s career then pivoted back to the area where she could leverage her law and marketing background in legal compliance and project management for leading healthcare and pharma marketing clients including Pfizer, Sanofi, Amgen, and numerous others. After taking time away to raise her children, she felt an undeniable call to return to legal practice and reclaim a passion for representing clients and helping organizations make impactful change in people’s lives. This naturally led Lorraine to the VLP where she has been thrilled to represent clients in their uncontested divorce, child support and modification cases, and looks forward to continuing to volunteer in the future.