

## Akash Patel

Associate

Washington, D.C.

### Biography

Akash Patel uses his unique experiences in education, immigration, and nonprofits to provide clients with reliable solutions in law and policy.

In 2014, Akash founded a nonprofit to help Oklahoma K-12 schools and colleges support immigrant students. He developed the state's first professional development curriculum designed to teach educators how to help immigrant students navigate immigration laws, education laws, and financial aid. Akash also raised over US\$300,000 for the nonprofit, giving him firsthand experience with scholarship-fund formation and management. Akash was subsequently appointed Chair of the Superintendent's Diversity Council for Oklahoma City Public Schools to help lead the district's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. In that role, he helped launch a new plan to address the needs of English-language learners. Working with the school district's general counsel, administrators, and families gave Akash perspective on how different stakeholders approach educational issues.

Akash continued working on education and immigration issues at the University of Michigan Law School, where he also served as a senior editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. As a law student, Akash had the opportunity to work at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Educational Opportunities



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### Practices

Administrative and Public Law

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### Industries

Education

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### Education and admissions

### Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2019

B.A., University of Oklahoma, summa cum laude, 2014

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Section where he conducted education policy research and assisted investigations of schools in multiple states. Akash also worked in Michigan Law's Juvenile Justice Clinic negotiating with prosecutors to achieve positive outcomes for students and working with schools to develop effective individualized education plans. Additionally, Akash externed at Michigan Immigrant Rights Center where he helped adults and unaccompanied minors seek asylum. Moved by the family separation crisis in 2018, Akash helped lead a team of lawyers from Hogan Lovells to volunteer at the country's largest detention center in Dilley, Texas, where he helped families apply for asylum.

## Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

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## Awards and rankings

- Pro Bono Service Award, *Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)*, 2020
- Best Pro Bono Project, *University of Michigan Law School*, 2018-2019
- Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, 2016
- Award for Special Service to Education, *NAFSA: Association of International Educators*, 2015
- Oklahoma Human Rights Award, *Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance*, 2014

## Latest thinking and events

- Awards and Rankings
  - Hogan Lovells lawyers recognized by KIND as Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year for work with refugee and immigrant children