

## **Debbie Cruz**

Debbie Cruz is a Rio Grande Valley native. She graduated from Donna High School and went on to receive her undergraduate degree from St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. She obtained her law degree from SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas in 2013. She has since then worked primarily in the fields of criminal and immigration law. Upon her return to the Valley she joined a local non-profit organization, La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), where she helped indigent families with family based immigration. Upon realizing how intricately related immigration and criminal law was, she joined the Hidalgo County District Attorney's office to grasp a better understanding of criminal law to better serve her immigrant clients. She remained at the District Attorney's office over two years where she served as a felony prosecutor for the 389<sup>th</sup> District Court. While she loved her job at the District Attorney's office, her passion has always been immigration and she jumped at the opportunity to work at a fast paced private law firm focusing primarily on immigration removal defense. She handled numerous complex removal cases successfully. Debbie has recently embarked on a new journey by opening up her own practice.