

FACES IN THE CROWD

Immigration lawyer savors Supreme win

By Ann Fisher

Seeing her byline in “Oprah” or “House Beautiful” magazines surely would have been a thrill for Angelique Montano of Sagemont, who studied magazine journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but Montano recently accomplished something much more important: Her name was attached to a precedent-setting Supreme Court case.

Montano and another attorney at FosterQuan LLP convinced the justices to grant their client the power to present his case in immigration court, dealing with the legal issue of allowing green-card holders to present a certain type of waiver to forgive past crimes and allow

ABOUT ANGELIQUE MONTANO

AGE: 27
OCCUPATION: Attorney specializing in immigration issues.
COMMUNITY CONNECTION: Houston resident
FAST FACT: Montano studied in Spain during college.

them to stay in the United States. Previously, the ability of legal immigrants in that category to defend themselves against certain crimes depended on where they lived and how their particular federal Circuit Court interpreted the law. The case involved a Pakistani man who is in the U.S. legally, but was prohibited from presenting

the waiver in immigration court simply because of the jurisdiction in which he lives.

His case was stuck for several years after he filed appeal after appeal to be heard. “Now, he has that chance,” Montano said.

Considering his attorney’s credentials, Montano’s client had a good chance of winning: She graduated cum laude from the University of Houston Law Center in 2001 after clerking in the 152nd District Court in Harris County.

But the married mother of two sons said she never considered practicing law until she moved to Houston for volunteer work after graduating from college. Looking for a way to bolster her Spanish, in which she also majored in



Courtesy photo

Angelique Montano once aspired to be a journalist but was inspired to pursue a career in immigration law.

college, Montano became intrigued by immigration law when she was assigned to work as a social worker by Catholic Charities. “When I got exposed,

I decided that’s what I want to do,” said Montano. “The direction of my life changed completely. “There’s a very direct impact on people’s lives;

I see that impact all the time.”

Ann Fisher is a freelance writer. She can be reached at neighborhoods@chron.com.

VOLUNTEER HOUSTON

Local hospice seeks counselors for patients

A hospice program in Pearland is recruiting new volunteers. Working with a team of medical and social work professionals, volunteers will play key roles by counseling terminally ill persons during the last stages of illness and providing emotional support to families before and after the patient’s death. Training is provided.

Senior center seeks volunteers for varied needs

Older adults will ap-

preciate your involvement at a center in Friendswood for seniors. Some specific opportunities for volunteers include food service assistance, leading dance, exercise, or craft classes, helping at the front desk, and setting up tables and chairs for events. Volunteers can share their times and talents on a daily or weekly basis during weekday daytime hours. The center is welcoming of both adult and youth volunteers.

Educational program seeks literacy tutors

Literacy tutors are needed by an adult educa-

tional program based in Pearland. Training will equip these volunteers to work on a one-to-one basis or with small groups of people, tutoring them to read and write. No teaching or foreign language experience is required. Tutoring sessions can be arranged for daytime or evening hours on weekdays.

Animal shelter needs canine groomers

A dog’s life can be a happy life thanks to caring volunteers who bathe and groom canines at an animal shelter in Alvin. If you can perform this simple but

valuable service on either a regular or occasional basis, consider helping these pooches put their best paws forward toward becoming their future owners’ cherished pets. The shelter is open weekdays and Saturdays.

Nursing home agency seeks ombudsman

Be an ombudsman for a health agency monitoring the quality of care at greater Houston area nursing homes. If you have good communication skills and a deep concern for the well-being of the elderly and

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disabled, you’ll receive in-depth training and certification that will enable you to work with a nursing home’s staff and residents in mediating problems.

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U. S. Army Sergeant Legrand, Carrie, Noah and Nathan Strickland

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