# Gabriela Salinas

Austin, TX · gabriela.salinas.test@example.com · Applying to: University of Texas School of Law J.D., 2026-27

*Gabriela Salinas is a fictional applicant written for this sample. Her employers and organisations are invented; universities, cities and tests are real.*

## At a glance

- **LSAT:** 158 (August 2025), 165 (June 2026)
- **Undergraduate GPA (LSAC):** 3.41
- **Texas State University**, San Marcos - B.A., Political Science, minor in Spanish, May 2022
- **Work since college:** four years full-time at a small Austin wage-and-hour firm
- **Languages:** English and Spanish (native)
- **Submitted:** November 2, 2026

## Resume

**GABRIELA SALINAS** Austin, TX · gabriela.salinas.test@example.com

**EXPERIENCE**

**Calderón & Pike PLLC** (four-lawyer firm representing workers in unpaid-wage and overtime claims), Austin, TX *Case Assistant*, July 2022 - present (full-time) - Conduct first intake interviews in Spanish and English, about 15 a month; most callers are construction, landscaping and restaurant workers. - Rebuild unpaid-wage claims from whatever the client has: pay stubs, text messages, photos of job sites, handwritten notebooks of hours. Built the firm's standard damages spreadsheet, now used on about 120 open matters. - Draft demand letters and first drafts of Department of Labor and Texas Workforce Commission wage claims for attorney review. - In 2025 tested an AI drafting and summarizing tool the firm was considering. Checked 30 of its damages charts against my own; 7 had errors, including counting the same overtime week twice. Wrote the two-page review checklist the firm adopted with the tool.

**San Marcos River Outfitters**, San Marcos, TX *Rental Desk and Shuttle Scheduler*, summers and weekends, 2019-2022 (about 20 hours/week in season, paid) - Ran check-in for up to 400 tubers on summer Saturdays; trained new seasonal staff in 2021.

**Salinas Auto Glass** (family business), Eagle Pass, TX *Bookkeeper, unpaid*, 2014-2022 - Kept invoices, payroll for two employees and quarterly tax paperwork for my father's shop from age 14; ran the shop for six weeks in spring 2020 after his heart attack.

**COMMUNITY**

**Eastside Wage Clinic** (volunteer workers' rights help desk), Austin, TX *Volunteer, then Saturday Intake Coordinator*, 2023 - present (about 5 hours/week) - Coordinate a team of 8-10 volunteers at the Saturday help desk; trained 12 new volunteers. - Designed a pocket hours-log card in English and Spanish; about 1,500 handed out at day-labor pickup spots and job sites.

**EDUCATION**

**Texas State University**, San Marcos, TX - B.A., Political Science, minor in Spanish, May 2022. GPA 3.41 (major 3.68). - Dean's List, Fall 2020 - Spring 2022. - Senior seminar paper: *"Who Enforces the Paycheck? Wage Claims at the Texas Workforce Commission, 2015-2020."* - Member, Pre-Law Society (2020-2022).

**INTERESTS** I play bajo sexto in a weekend conjunto group with three coworkers' relatives; we are not good but we get booked for quinceañeras. Swim at Barton Springs year-round. Learning to cook my grandmother's caldo de res without calling my mother.

## Personal statement

The first wage claim I ever built was for my father, and he was the employer.

In spring 2020, during my sophomore year, my father had a heart attack in his auto-glass shop in Eagle Pass. I came home from San Marcos, and for six weeks I ran the shop. His two installers kept working, and on Friday I had to pay them. I opened the payroll book I had kept since I was fourteen and found that for months I had been paying one of them, Don Rogelio, straight time for Saturdays that pushed him past forty hours. Nobody had meant to cheat him. My father had told me Saturdays were "extra," and I had written them in the wrong column. I added it up at the kitchen table: $1,140. We paid him over three paychecks. My grades that semester were the worst I have ever had, and I have never forgotten that number.

I think about it because of how ordinary it was. Most unpaid wages I see now are not dramatic theft. They are columns, habits and assumptions, and the people they hurt usually find out last.

Since 2022 I have worked as a case assistant at Calderón & Pike, a four-lawyer firm in Austin that represents workers owed wages. My job is to turn what a client brings into a number a court or agency will believe. A drywall finisher once brought me a spiral notebook with eleven months of hours written in pencil, some smudged by rain. His employer had paid in cash and kept no records. I matched his notebook to timestamped photos on his phone and to texts from his foreman saying which job site to report to. The attorneys settled his claim for most of what he was owed. Another client came to us too late; the two-year limit for most of his claim had run, and all I could do was tell him so in Spanish and watch him fold the notebook back into his pocket. That conversation is part of why I volunteer on Saturdays at the Eastside Wage Clinic, handing out the hours-log card I designed. The best evidence is the kind a worker keeps before anything goes wrong.

Working next to lawyers has shown me the edge of what I can do. I can find the hours and do the math. I cannot decide which claim to bring, argue that an "independent contractor" was really an employee, or stand up when the employer's lawyer says the notebook is invented. When the firm tested an AI tool that drafts demand letters and damages charts, I checked its work and found it double-counting

overtime weeks, which is the same mistake I made at nineteen, made faster. Tools like that will handle more of the arithmetic. The judgment about what a client's evidence proves, and what to do with it, still belongs to a lawyer, and that is the part I want to learn.

I also want to understand the rules above my cases. When the 2023 state law displaced Austin's local requirement for water breaks on construction sites, some of the same men whose hours I count were working through July heat under different rules than the year before. I have opinions about that, but I want to be able to argue them as law, not just as a feeling at a help desk.

I want to go to law school to become the lawyer for people like Don Rogelio: workers who are owed money because of someone's column, someone's habit, or someone's choice.

## Optional statement: Why Texas Law

I have lived in Austin for four years and in Texas my whole life. The workers I want to represent are here, and so is the law that governs them, from the Texas Workforce Commission's wage-claim process to state preemption of city ordinances. Two of the attorneys I work for clerked or volunteered through Texas Law clinics and still talk about learning to try a case before they graduated. I want a clinic where I can carry real wage and employment cases under supervision, and I want to stay in Texas afterward, ideally back near the border. Studying in Austin also lets me keep my Saturdays at the Eastside Wage Clinic.

## Addendum: Spring 2020 grades

My GPA for Spring 2020 was 2.31. In March my father had a heart attack and I went home to Eagle Pass to run his business while classes moved online. I finished every course but did not do them well. From Fall 2020 through graduation my GPA was 3.74. I also took the LSAT twice; my second score, 165, came after a year of studying before work.