

I AM BARNES & THORNBURG



SPOTLIGHTS

Carla Montiel: I Am Barnes & Thornburg

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I AM...

- A Venezuelan native who moved to the United States after graduating from law school at a Catholic University in Caracas, Venezuela
- The mom of a 25 year old who despite the challenges with his health is my greatest love and accomplishment
- A wife to a sweet and handsome Colombian husband who holds me in his arm every morning and makes me feel safe and optimistic
- The daughter of a music educator who dedicated most of her career to the popular Venezuelan music system “El Sistema.” This is a free music education program serving primarily Venezuela’s many “barrios” and low-income communities.
- A dog lover who has had dogs my entire life. The first dog I had was a German Sheppard mix named Fresa (Strawberry in Spanish). I currently own an imperfect couple made of a 12-year-old male mini-pin and a 4-month old female mini-Schnauzer.
- A decent horseback rider who also knows a thing or two about making cheese and raising chickens as I spent most of my childhood at my dad’s farm in the mountainous region of Venezuela
- An arepa lover who eats this very dish almost every day at home. My dream is to one day open an “Arepera” (similar to a taqueria) here in Los Angeles.
- Someone whose heart remains in Venezuela although I have been in the U.S. for 26 years. I have two half siblings, my dad and

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step-mom still living in my broken country.

- An atheist with very high moral standards and the upmost respect for all living things
- A stranger to television and sports! I have never owned a TV set and know nothing about shows or sports teams.



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