

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**March 6, 2024**

### **Melisa “Mel” Leal Joins Cantu Harden Montoya LLP**

Mel brings a broad and unique background of professional and legal experience to Cantu Harden Montoya LLP. Mel started her legal career working in public finance after graduating from the University of Texas School of Law (with honors). She worked in public finance representing local, state and special districts as bond counsel, underwriters’ counsel and disclosure counsel. Mel later transitioned her practice into work representing municipal utility districts, special districts, and real estate development clients. Mel started her professional career in local government management; most notably working in the City Manager’s Office of both the City of Waco and the City of Grapevine. Mel’s primary duties while working in city management included handling special projects at the request of the City Manager or City Council, working on economic development matters, supporting municipal utility issues, monitoring legislative matters, and responding to public inquiries. Mel has also served as a child welfare attorney representing children and parents involved with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Mel attended Trinity University in San Antonio and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Finance/Management and a minor in Urban Studies. She subsequently earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

Mel will support Cantu Harden Montoya’s clients out of the Firm’s Offices in Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio.