



## MEET MELISSA

*“As a Latina and first-generation college graduate, I am no stranger to the value and importance of hard work, diligence, and persistence. I treat everything I do as if it is the most important thing I have ever done, because I firmly believe that the harder people work, the luckier they get.”*

— Melissa Blanco

Melissa is an attorney in the Litigation Department, focusing her practice on restrictive covenant and trade secret cases, commercial litigation, and appellate matters. In her position, Melissa has worked to secure preliminary injunctions against employees who have defected to competitors, taking with them the company’s trade secrets. Melissa also has utilized her experience as a clerk to former Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to prepare appellate pleadings and advise clients on a vast array of procedural issues at both the trial and appellate levels.

As a Latina and first-generation college graduate, Melissa values hard work, diligence, and persistence. For her, being a lawyer means being a lifelong learner: learning to stand in someone else’s shoes; learning to see through someone else’s eyes, and learning to make a tangible difference in the world. Having grown up with a father who served his community as a firefighter and a paramedic, Melissa understands the importance of empathy and dedication. To this end, Melissa values open and frequent communication with her clients, and she works to ensure her clients feel heard, valued, and respected.

When not working, Melissa coaches Penn State Law’s mock trial teams, plays intramural soccer, seeks out new, local restaurants, and reads novels, particularly those written by Jodi Picoult.

## EXPERIENCE

During law school, Melissa gained practical experience in the Civil Rights Appellate Clinic. As a student advocate, she obtained a favorable outcome for a *pro se* litigant after working on a team to submit a brief regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit as amicus counsel.

Melissa also served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor Saylor of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, where she analyzed petitions for allowance of appeal to discern whether the Court should exercise its discretionary Jurisdiction, and drafted allocatur reports reflecting a recommendation. She also drafted majority opinions, dissents, and concurrences, reviewed and analyzed circulating opinions.

## NEWS & INSIGHTS

### **Obermayer Counsels BASA in \$231.5 Million Landmark Acquisition by Pennsylvania American Water**

October 31, 2024 by Melissa M. Blanco, Thomas S. Wyatt, Matthew S. Olesh, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Nicole E. Norcross, David A. Nasatir

### **Obermayer Attorneys Discuss the Art of Petitioning for Pennsylvania Supreme Court Appeals in The Legal Intelligencer**

August 05, 2024 by Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Hillary J. Moonay

### **Obermayer Legal Team Wins PA Supreme Court Case Establishing New Rules on 3rd Party Child Support**

June 14, 2024 by Melissa M. Blanco, Amanda C. Frett, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Hillary J. Moonay

### **Mathieu Shapiro and Melissa Blanco to Present at the ACCGP's 16th Annual In-House Counsel Conference**

April 18, 2024 by Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro

### **Appealing to the Justices: Five Mistakes to Avoid When Petitioning the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for Allowance of Appeal**

June 12, 2023 by Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro

### **28 Obermayer Attorneys Named to Pennsylvania 2023 Super Lawyers® and Rising Stars Lists®**

May 23, 2023 by Melissa M. Blanco, Shaun Staller, Amanda C. Frett, Kellie A. McGowan, Michael A. Thom, Charles L. Shute Jr., Marcelina R. Policicchio, Mathieu J. Shapiro, William J. Leonard, Stephanie H. Winegrad, Adam H. Tanker, Alina Chuklin, Nina B. Stryker, Nicholas Poduslenko, Nicole E. Norcross, Hillary J. Moonay, Thomas A. Leonard III, David L. Ladov, Samantha J. Koopman, Andrew J. Horowitz, Paul C. Heintz, Edmond M. George, Julie R. Colton, Michael E. Bertin

## ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Melissa was included in the Pennsylvania Rising Stars® list in 2023 – 2024. She was one of five Penn State Law students selected to teach Mongolian lawyers about the U.S. legal system. She was a legal teaching assistant at The National University of Mongolia.

Melissa was also one of three Penn State Law students selected to participate in a roundtable discussion with Yale Law School Professor, James Forman, Jr., regarding the war on drugs and its ultimate relationship to mass incarceration.

**Publications:**

**Sex Trend or Sexual Assault?: The Dangers of Stealthing and the Concept of Conditional Consent**

123 Penn. St. L. Rev. 217 (2018)

**Police Sexual Violence: Police Brutality, #MeToo, and Masculinities**

108 Calif. L. Rev. 1487 (2020)

**Awards Won\***



\*[Click here](#) for a description of the standard or methodology on which the awards and honors are based. No aspect of this advertisement is approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

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**EDUCATION**

Penn State Law at University Park, JD  
University of Florida, BA

**ADMISSIONS**

Pennsylvania

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**CAPABILITIES**

**Litigation**

Appellate  
Commercial Litigation  
Cyber Liability Defense  
Trade Secrets

**Industry Focus**

Financial Services  
Individuals & Private Clients  
Local Governments & Municipal Authorities  
Nonprofit Organizations  
Universities & Secondary Schools

**Labor & Employment**

Employment-Related Agreements