

# MESA LAW, PA

Christina C. Mesa, Attorney-at-Law and Mediator

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## Divorce - Personal Injury - DUI - Criminal

MESA LAW, PA is a highly experienced law firm offering diversified services. We represent parties in matters involving family law, personal injury, employment law, probate, criminal law and general civil litigation. We offer consultation and/or litigation services in both civil and criminal courts in the Tampa Bay area.

Christina Mesa was identified in *Florida Trend's* 2008 Florida Legal Elite. She is a **Martindale-Hubbell AV® rated** attorney. Only five percent of America's lawyers have an **AV® certification mark** which is a significant rating accomplishment - a testament to the fact that a lawyer's peers rank him or her at the highest level of professional excellence. In addition to her rating accomplishment, Mrs. Mesa has been practicing law in Tampa for over 18 years. She has extensive experience with hundreds of successful jury and non-jury trials. Let her experience work for you.



City Hall, Tampa 2008 (Copyright: Mesa Law PA)

### Free initial consultation.

(813) 832-6372 (24 hours) or (813) 323-7811(cell)



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### Attorney Profile

**....When choosing an attorney, go with someone who is honest and compassionate yet highly aggressive in the courtroom. With hundreds of successful jury and non-jury trials, Christina Mesa has the experience and track record you are looking for....at a cost you can afford!.....**

EXPERIENCE: Christina Mesa graduated from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida with a Juris Doctorate in 1991. She has been licensed by the Florida Bar since 1992. Her experience includes serving as an Assistant State Attorney in the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office in Tampa, Florida, prosecuting felony, misdemeanor, juvenile, dependency and Baker Act division cases from 1993 through early 1996. Since then, she has handled general civil litigation suits - representing either plaintiffs or defendants - and criminal defense matters. She has extensive experience with over 85 jury trials (criminal and civil), hundreds of non-jury trials and administrative hearings and representing clients on various civil issues throughout the state of Florida.

ADMISSIONS: Florida Bar and U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

CERTIFICATION: Statewide civil circuit and county court mediator in Florida.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Florida Bar Association, Hillsborough County Bar Association.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: English, Spanish, and Italian.

RATING: Martindale-Hubbell AV rated. [Profile link for Christina Mesa.](#)

PERSONAL: married since 1991, three children.

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## Practice Areas



Original Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa 2008

- General civil litigation
- DUI
- Divorce
- Insurance defense
- Nursing home/ALF
- Medical malpractice
- Premises liability/slip and fall
- Construction
- Criminal defense
- Probate
- Administrative law
- Family law
- Personal injury
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Employment disputes
- Probate
- Business and Commercial litigation

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## Helpful Links



Florida DUI laws:

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/duilaws.html>

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, Florida:

<http://www.fljud13.org/>

Clerk of Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida:

<http://www.hillsclerk.com/publicweb/home.aspx>

Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/>

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

<http://doacs.state.fl.us/>

The Florida Bar: <http://www.floridabar.org/>

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser:

<http://www.hcpafl.org/www/index.shtml>

Florida Department of State: <http://www.dos.state.fl.us/>

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office: <http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/>

City of Tampa Police Department: [http://www.tampagov.net/dept\\_Police/](http://www.tampagov.net/dept_Police/)

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PA****Christina C. Mesa, Attorney-at-Law and Mediator**

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## Case Histories

The following are summaries of outcomes of a few cases handled in the recent past. Initials are used to protect the privacy of our clients, who may be individuals or corporations. (Other areas of practice are available but not represented by the content.)



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### **FAMILY LAW**

SG v. HG: Dissolution of marriage involving assets/debts, child custody, child support and alimony. Client: respondent/husband. Outcome: settled by agreement of the parties in December 2008.

CH v. CH: Dissolution of marriage involving assets/debts, child custody, child support and alimony. Client: respondent/husband. Outcome: dissolution granted at Final Hearing in December 2008; court awarded no "back" child support or alimony to petitioner/wife.

JR v. KR: Petition for annulment. Client: petitioner/husband. Outcome: annulment granted November 2007.

ML v. SH: Petition to modify custody/visitation. Client: petitioner/father. Outcome: settled by agreement of parties March 2008.

### **CRIMINAL DEFENSE**

State v. SN: Retail theft. Outcome: motion to dismiss granted.

State v. DMJ: DUI + traffic citations. Outcome: plea agreement to lesser charge(s) or charges dropped (*nolle prosequi*) in December 2008.

SG v HG: Petition for domestic violence. Client: HG. Outcome: dismissed at hearing July 2008.

State v. CH: DUI. Outcome: plea agreement to reduced charge in March 2008.

TH, juvenile: felony + misdemeanor charges. Outcome: plea agreement to diversion program September 2007.

JF, juvenile: multiple charges. Outcome: dismissed by State before charges filed July 2007.

State v CH: possession of controlled substances + paraphernalia. Outcome: plea agreement with charges reduced to misdemeanors in March 2008.

State v JH: Aggravated battery, 2nd degree felony. Outcome: not guilty at jury trial October 2007.

JAF, juvenile: felony + misdemeanor. Outcome: not guilty at adjudicatory hearing August 2008.

State v. JMF: burglary + criminal mischief. Outcome: nolle pros entered by State before jury trial September 2008.

State v. RVS: possession of controlled substance. Outcome: motion to suppress granted, plea agreement.

### **LITIGATION**

SN v. AAP: malicious prosecution/false arrest/negligence. Client: plaintiff. Outcome: settled by agreement of parties April 2008.

RH v. FHSC: premises liability. Client: defendant. Outcome: settled by agreement of parties December 2008.

AEI v. GT: commercial, contract dispute. Client: plaintiff. Outcome: verdict for Plaintiff at bench trial January 2007.

JD v. RS/AJS: commercial lease. Client: plaintiff. Outcome: verdict for Plaintiff after bench trial July 2007; order entered December 2007.

SN v. PI: automobile accident/negligence. Client: proposed plaintiff. Outcome: settled by agreement March 2008.

VSWC v. HALL: commercial lease. Client: plaintiff. Outcome: settled by agreement/recovery of funds July 2007.

ES v. T: property loss. Client: proposed defendant. Outcome: settled in "pre-suit" period December 2007.

DKT v BC/CC: commercial litigation/contract. Clients: BC and CC. Outcome: clients dismissed from suit by stipulation August 2008.

BC v. JL: real estate dispute/separation. Client: BC. Outcome: settled by agreement in "pre-suit" July 2007.

CW v. BLC: employment law. Client: proposed plaintiff. Outcome: settled by agreement in "pre-suit" April 2008.

SH v. FHS: premises liability/medical malpractice. Client: defendant. Outcome: settled by agreement December 2008.

ER v. MP/GC: employment/whistleblower/battery. Client: defendant. Outcome: stipulation for dismissal with prejudice March 2009.

BB v. JH: civil battery/negligence. Client: defendant. Outcome: stipulation for dismissal with prejudice June 2009.

MG v. CG: landlord/tenant, commercial lease. Client: MG. Outcome: settled pre-suit December 2008.

CI v. M&RR: garnishment. Client: M&RR. Outcome: settled with agreed order to reduced garnishment June 2009.

EM v. WHH: medical malpractice. Client: EM. Outcome: pre-suit settlement June 2009.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

1. QUESTION: How do I select an attorney?

ANSWER: Legal issues are as vast as those in other industries, such as medicine, construction, finance, etc. and can be just as complicated. To protect your legal rights and remedies, the best practice is to research your area of need and research what lawyers are available to assist you. A referral from someone you know and respect can add a personal element to the decision to hire an attorney but should not be the sole reason counsel is selected. Look into the attorney's background of education, experience and area(s) of practice. Asking questions should be encouraged in this process. Self-help can be empowering but can also limit or negate your recovery. Hiring a lawyer should be contemplated with the same degree of thought and consideration as that given to the choice of a doctor, accountant, financial consultant or therapist.

2. QUESTION: How do I know if I need a lawyer?

ANSWER: If you have been served with a Summons and related documents (Complaint, Petition, Motion), you should endeavor to seek legal advice right away. Papers filed in court that begin a lawsuit require responses that involve specific deadlines; missing those deadlines could compromise your defense, limit or avoid your recovery. Some matters by statute involve a "pre-suit" period that allow you to consider the legal issues and potential resolution before a lawsuit is filed. Similarly, seeking legal counsel as soon as possible is recommended.

3. QUESTION: What is mediation?

ANSWER: Mediation is a process whereby the parties to the matter present at an agreed location with their counsel (if retained) and a selected mediator to try and resolve all or some of the issues involved. Mediators are to be unrelated to all parties and the litigation at issue, are to remain impartial between the parties and their counsel, and maintain the confidential nature of the conference to encourage settlement and resolution. Usually the parties share the cost of the mediation equally but other arrangements can be made if all parties are in agreement ahead of the conference. Mediation is usually required in every case filed in court and before a trial is held.

4. QUESTION: What kind of lawyer do I need?

ANSWER: Again, like other industries, lawyers may specialize in a certain or more than one area. Similarly, law firms may specialize, provide general legal needs or offer services in a few specific areas of law. Trial lawyers handle cases involving lawsuits; family law attorneys handle divorce, child custody/visitation, child support, alimony and related matters; general practitioners handle most matters. Some areas of law are very technical, like bankruptcy or taxation; others are delineated by statute, such as worker's compensation. Any lawyer should be able to discuss your particular issue, determine if he/she is qualified to handle such matters or advise you of the need to consult with another in a specialized area.

5. QUESTION: Do I have to hire an attorney in the county where the problem occurs?

ANSWER: No. Most lawyers practice in other counties and other states, depending on their licensure for the latter. Having experience in the county wherein the matter is being litigated is important as that lawyer will have a comfort level with the local courthouse personnel, attorneys (likely opposing counsel) and judges. One consideration in retaining an attorney outside the area wherein the matter occurs is cost of travel time. Some lawyers do not charge for travel, others offer a reduced rate or maintain a billable rate for all work performed. Clarify that question with each attorney consulted.

6. QUESTION: How can I be sure my attorney is handling my problems?

ANSWER: Every good lawyer keeps track of his time (fees) and expenses (costs). Your retainer arrangement should include a confirmation of how the attorney bills his clients - monthly, quarterly, etc. You may also keep track of your case in some jurisdictions that offer on-line access to case dockets. If the county has that set up, you are wise to periodically review the docket and see what events have transpired by your counsel and the other party/counsel. You should also feel comfortable contacting your attorney at intervals to ascertain the status of the matter, understanding you will likely be charged for these communications.

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## Hourly Rates and Fees

Our fees are very reasonable and depend on the complexity of the case or type of legal issues involved. Some matters will require a retainer, others only require a litigation or contingency contract. Please contact us now for your FREE initial phone consultation. You will speak directly with Attorney Christina Mesa.

Thank you for your interest in Mesa Law PA.

(813) 832-6372 (office)  
(813) 323-7811 (cell phone)  
[mesalaw@hotmail.com](mailto:mesalaw@hotmail.com) (email)



Click the following link for consumer information on attorney fees: [Florida Bar](#)

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