



## MEET MELISSA

*"From first-gen roots to first principles, I work hard, provide clear thinking, and deliver real results. I've found that the harder I work, the luckier I get—and I work relentlessly."*

— Melissa Blanco

Melissa's practice focuses on appellate and business litigation in Pennsylvania's state and federal courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, with a particular expertise in petitions for allowance of appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (allocatur). She has briefed and argued complex matters for individuals, businesses, and governmental entities, including cases involving Medicaid compliance, municipal transactions, restrictive covenants, trade secrets, Right-to-Know Law issues, and business-related disputes.

Before joining Obermayer, Melissa clerked for Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She draws on that experience to guide Obermayer's trial teams on standards of review, issue preservation, and appellate-ready briefing. Melissa graduated from Penn State Law, where she served as Managing Editor of the Penn State Law Review, and earned her B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Florida.

A Latina, first-generation college graduate, and daughter of blue-collar workers, Melissa brings a practical, common-sense perspective to her work. She is known for cutting through complexity, making the "why" behind her position unmistakable and her desired outcome feel inevitable. Her guiding principle is simple: the harder you work, the luckier you get.

When not working, Melissa and her husband like experiencing Philadelphia's booming food culture and playing tabletop board games.

## EXPERIENCE

Former law clerk for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Melissa brings a court-side perspective to appellate and complex litigation. Her experience includes:

- Successfully briefing appeals before the Commonwealth Court and Pennsylvania Supreme Court on regulatory approvals and municipal transactions.
- Presenting oral argument to the full Commonwealth Court in a precedent-setting case on public-utility law.
- Securing Pennsylvania Supreme Court review and a win on the merits in a landmark decision clarifying non-parent child-support obligations.
- Obtaining Pennsylvania Supreme Court review on issues of quasi-judicial immunity and appellate standards.
- Crafting a novel transparency argument never before raised in Pennsylvania in a Right-to-Know Law appeal, leading briefing in a bet-the-company appeal.
- Reversing an adverse agency decision in the Commonwealth Court, securing a win on independent contractor and unemployment eligibility issues.
- Securing dismissal with prejudice of all claims against a client in a multi-defendant contract action.
- Successfully defending attorneys against DB-7 inquiries from the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board.
- Successfully securing an injunction preventing a former employee from disclosing trade secrets to a major competitor.
- Persuaded opposing counsel to abandon threatened litigation by crafting a compelling factual narrative in pre-litigation that exposed critical weaknesses in their client's position.

## NEWS & INSIGHTS

### **Obermayer Attorneys Present at 2026 PBA Family Law Winter Meeting**

January 16, 2026 by Caitlin E. Foley, Melissa M. Blanco, Julie R. Colton

### **Frame the Why, Pave the Way: How Strategic Appellate Framing Led to a Unanimous Pennsylvania Supreme Court Win**

December 30, 2025 by Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro

### **Obermayer Team Secures Pennsylvania Supreme Court Victory for East Whiteland, Greenlighting that Sewer Sale and Removing Uncertainty from the Marketplace**

December 20, 2025 by Melissa M. Blanco, Thomas S. Wyatt, Matthew S. Olesh, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Kimberley A. Farmer

### **Melissa Blanco Examines What's at Risk in Supreme Court Voting Rights Case**

July 28, 2025 by Melissa M. Blanco

### **The Legal Intelligencer: Pa. Court Clarifies Key Factors for Successor Liability in Business Acquisitions**

July 07, 2025 by Matthew E. Selmasska, Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro

### **Obermayer Attorneys Honored in 2025 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers® and Rising Stars Lists**

May 22, 2025 by Hayley N. Purcell Sinkler, Madison G. Melinek, Stephanie Steckclair Tarantino, Melissa M. Blanco, Kellie A. McGowan, Michael A. Thom, Marcelina R. Policicchio, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Stephanie H. Winegrad, Adam H. Tanker, Alina Chuklin, Tara K. Burns, Nina B. Stryker, Nicholas Poduslenko, Michael S. Pepperman, Nicole E. Norcross, Hillary J. Moonay, Thomas A. Leonard III, David L. Ladov, Paul

C. Heintz, Edmond M. George, Samantha J. Evian, Julie R. Colton, Michael E. Bertin

## ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Melissa was included in the Pennsylvania Rising Stars® list for Business Litigation in 2023 – 2025. 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**

**Industry Focus**

Appellate

Commercial Litigation

Cyber Liability Defense

Trade Secrets

## **Labor & Employment**

Employment-Related Agreements

Financial Services

Individuals & Private Clients

Local Governments & Municipal Authorities

Nonprofit Organizations

Universities & Secondary Schools