



Melissa M. Blanco

ASSOCIATE

215.665.3097

melissa.blanco@obermayer.com

LOCATED IN

Philadelphia, PA

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

The Sixth Circuit Gives New Life to the Vaccine Mandate – Next Up, the Supreme Court

December 20, 2021 by Stacey L. Pitcher, Alexandra L. Simels, Melissa M. Blanco

Luck Of The Draw: The Fate Of OSHA's Vaccine Mandate Now Is In The Hands Of The Sixth Circuit

November 16, 2021

The OSHA Vaccine Mandate Purgatory

November 15, 2021 by Stacey L. Pitcher, Melissa M. Blanco

To Vaccinate Or Not To Vaccinate: That May No Longer Be The Question

November 08, 2021 by Stacey L. Pitcher, Melissa M. Blanco

Alex Basilevsky and Melissa Blanco to Present at ACC's Contracts and Commercial Law CLE Institute

June 23, 2021 by Melissa M. Blanco, Alex Basilevsky

Mathieu Shapiro and Melissa Blanco Presented at ACC's Litigation CLE Institute

March 11, 2021 by Melissa M. Blanco, Mathieu J. Shapiro

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Melissa 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)

EDUCATION

Penn State Law at University Park, JD

University of Florida, BA

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania

CAPABILITIES

Litigation

Appellate

Commercial Litigation

Trade Secrets

Labor & Employment

Employment-Related Agreements

Industry Focus

Financial Services

Individuals & Private Clients

Local Governments & Municipal Authorities

Nonprofit Organizations

Universities & Secondary Schools