

VICTORIA MESA-ESTRADA, ESQ.
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SUMMARY

Passionate attorney with a strong background in civil rights, mass torts and complex employment law litigation. Excellent abilities in verbal communication, negotiation, and strategic oversight to team members. Trilingual- Fluent in English, Spanish, French.

EDUCATION

St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, FL

Juris Doctor

December 2008

LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights Law, cum laude

May 2004

Honors: Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Law Student Scholarship (*Recipient*, 2008); The Florida Bar International Law Section Student Essay Competition (*Third Place Award*, 2008); St. Thomas Law School Book Award for Constitutional Law II (*Best Student award-fall 2008*); Intercultural Human Rights Law Review (*Member Candidate* 2006-07; *Member*, 2007-08)

Activities: St. Thomas University Public Interest Law Student Association (*Founder and Chair*, 2007– 2008); Environmental Law Society (*Vice President*, 2007–2008).

Florida International University, Miami FL

Bachelor of Arts, Political Sciences & International Relations

April 2002

Certificate of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

April 2002

Activities: Colombian-American Student Association, Vice-President (2000-01)

EXPERIENCE

Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley P.A. West Palm Beach, FL

September 2022-Present

Trial Attorney

- Representing clients in state and federal court in mass tort matters involving product liability, pharmaceutical, and medical device claims.
- Representing workers in the areas of employment law and employment discrimination on legal claims arising out of employers' violations of federal, state and/or local employment laws.

Southern Poverty Law Center Miami, FL

July 2019-July 2022

Senior Staff Attorney

- Representing agricultural employees/workers in the areas of employment law and employment discrimination on legal claims arising out of employers' violations of federal, state and/or local employment laws;
- Litigating systemic cases against state practices that funnel people into the deportation machine;
- Advocating for policies that free immigrants from detention through individual representation and systemic reform;

Mesa-Estrada Law, P.A. Boynton Beach, FL

August 2014-July 2019

Attorney

- Representing employees/workers in the areas of employment law, employment discrimination, and worker's compensation in state and federal courts on legal claims under the Florida Minimum Wage Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII Civil Rights Act, and other applicable laws.
- Representing sexual and domestic violence survivors in the areas of employment, immigration, housing, criminal justice advocacy and other matters.
- Representing clients in cases involving immigration matters, including removal defense, asylums, family petitions, business visa petitions, Temporary Protection Status, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.
- Providing businesses/employers with legal advice, consulting, and training on all aspects and phases of the employment relationship, from hiring to termination. Designing and providing guidance and customized employment law compliance training on a variety of topics, including legal issues of supervision, performance

management and documentation practices, wage and hour audits, H-2A and H-2B U.S. Department of Labor Temporary Guest worker program audits, sexual harassment prevention, managing employee leave of absences and reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities, and conducting workplace investigations.

Florida Legal Services, Inc. Lake Worth, FL
Staff Attorney/Project Manager

September 2016- August 2018
March 2010 – March 2015

- Representing domestic and migrant farmworkers and temporary foreign workers in state and federal courts for legal claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act, Department of Labor’s H-2A and H-2B regulations, Title VII claims, and Florida Workers Compensation laws.

Oxfam America Davie, FL
Policy Consultant

September 2007 – March 2009

- Advising, conducting research, and drafting internal recommendations for implementation of a U.S. and international campaign on migrant workers’ rights to meet the organization's international strategic planning objectives.
- Advocating for the passage of federal agricultural and immigration-related legislation in U.S. Congress (AgJobs) and advising worker’s rights groups on U.S. Department of Labor proposals for changes in the H-2A Temporary Foreign Worker program regulations.
- Helping maintain a strong and constructive relationship with minority group allies and U.S. Congress.
- Offering insights, feedback, and guidance to allies and Oxfam on executing strategies. Providing guidance and direction to the organization in understanding the complicated and inter-related issues around farm policy, international trade, labor rights, and economic migration.

VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

<i>Florida Hispanic Bar Association- Co-Founder and President</i>	2019-Present
<i>Palm Beach County Chapter of Florida Association of Women Lawyers</i>	2015-Present
<i>Florida Council Against Sexual Violence- Board Member</i>	2015-Present
<i>Palm Beach County Bar Association- Committee on Diversity and Inclusion</i>	2021-Present
<i>Florida Bar- Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee- Committee Member</i>	2017-Present
<i>Florida Bar- W.Reese Smith Leadership Academy- Committee Member</i>	2022-Present
<i>State of Florida, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Farmworker Advisory Board</i>	2021-Present

ACCOLADES

<i>Justice Jorge Labarga Leadership Award, Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association</i>	2022
<i>Women in the Law, Florida Association of Women Lawyers</i>	2022
<i>Esperanza Award, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Palm Beach County</i>	2019
<i>Bravo Award, Broward County Hispanic Bar Association</i>	2019
<i>The Leadership, Unity, Professional and Excellence Award, National Association of Farmworker Organizations</i>	2016