

# **MELISSA MANGIARACINA**

*Sierra Mediation LLC*

*PO Box 3630, Incline Village NV 89450 • (775) 432-0868*

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## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

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### **Mediator/Arbitrator Training**

Basic Mediator Training: 40 hours (May 2017)

State Bar of Nevada Arbitrator Training: 10 hours (October 2017 and November 2019)

Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program Training: 40 hours (March 2018)

Mediating Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence (instructor): 6 hours (May 2018)

Child Custody and Divorce Mediation Training: 25 hours (October 2018)

Foreclosure Mediation Training: 4 hours (December 2018)

Trauma and Child Protection Mediation (instructor): 6 hours (May 2019)

**University of Denver College of Law**, Denver, Colorado, *Juris Doctor*, 2003

*Class Rank: 4/368; GPA: 3.86/4.0*

*Recipient*, Chancellor's Scholarship for Public Interest (full tuition scholarship)

*Awarded*, Order of St. Ives; Melanie Hardaway Award for Academic Excellence; and Scholastic Excellence Awards for Property, Family Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, and Death Penalty Law

*Secretary & Treasurer*, Public Interest Law Group

*Staff Member*: Denver University Law Review

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, *Bachelor of Arts, Psychology*, 1996

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Sierra Mediation**, Northern Nevada and Lake Tahoe Basin

*Co-founder, Mediator, Arbitrator*

*January 2018 – present*

Mediate private civil disputes; mediate child protection cases for the Nevada Statewide Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program; mediate custody and guardianship cases for the Second Judicial District Court; serve as Settlement Judge for the Nevada Supreme Court; and arbitrate civil cases for the Nevada Court-Annexed Arbitration Program.

**Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore**, Incline Village, Nevada

*July 2013 – present*

Hear and decide civil and criminal cases in the Incline Village Justice Court, including orders of protection, criminal arraignments, landlord/tenant disputes, small claims cases, and traffic violations.

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**, Reno, Nevada

*Part-time Program Attorney, August 2015 – August 2019*

*Senior Policy Analyst, August 2013 – June 2014*

Wrote policy papers, articles and curricula on the intersection of domestic violence and custody/child maltreatment; provided training and technical assistance to survivors, coalitions, judges, mediators, attorneys, GALs and other family law professionals both nationally and internationally.

**Administrative Hearing Officer**, Washoe County, Nevada

*October 2016 – January 2019*

Heard and decided Washoe County ordinance violations.

**Nevada Legal Services, Inc.,** Carson City, Nevada

*Directing Attorney of the Senior Law Project, December 2014 – October 2015; Senior Attorney, June 2014 – December 2014; Staff Attorney, January 2005 – September 2006*

Managed attorney and non-attorney staff; prepared grant proposals and reports; represented low-income and elderly clients in landlord/tenant law, unemployment, social security, Medicare/Medicaid, estate planning, guardianships, consumer law, tribal law, and immigration petitions under VAWA.

**Washoe Legal Services,** Reno, Nevada

*Child Advocate Attorney, September 2006 – August 2013*

Provided comprehensive legal services to abused and neglected children, including assistance with reunification, termination of parental rights, custody, adoption and guardianship proceedings, services for aged-out youth, representation at mediation, and Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) petitions.

**United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit,** Denver, Colorado

*Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Carlos F. Lucero, August 2003 – June 2004*

Researched legal issues and drafted legal opinions and orders in civil rights, personal injury, antitrust, habeas, criminal, ADA, ERISA, and employment discrimination cases.

**Federal Public Defender,** Denver, Colorado

*Research and Writing Specialist, January 2002 – December 2002*

Conducted substantive research, drafted motions and appellate briefs in Federal District and Circuit Courts and drafted a Petition for Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

**University of Denver College of Law,** Denver, Colorado

*Volunteer Research Assistant, September 2001 – December 2001*

Provided research assistance to Professor Christine Cimini on welfare reform. *See Cimini, Christine, Welfare Entitlements in the Era of Devolution, 9 Geo. J. on Poverty L and Pol'y 89 (2002).*

**Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network,** Denver, Colorado

*Volunteer Intake Specialist, September 2001 – December 2001*

Conducted intake interviews of INS detainees, advised clients of their legal rights in immigration law, translated for Spanish-speaking clients, and sought pro bono attorneys to represent qualified clients.

**Colorado Legal Services,** Greeley, Colorado

*Staff Attorney for the Migrant Farm Worker Division, May 2001 – August 2001*

Educated agricultural workers on their legal rights and provided free legal assistance in the areas of landlord/tenant, worker's compensation, employment, immigration, social security and basic tax law.

**North Carolina Outward Bound School,** Asheville, North Carolina and Costa Rica

*Wilderness Instructor for At-Risk Youth, May 1999 – August 2000*

Instructed wilderness courses for inner-city youth in the mountains of North Carolina and Costa Rica.

**The Children's Cabinet,** Incline Village, Nevada

*Youth Activities Coordinator, August 1998 – May 1999*

Translated for at-risk Spanish-speaking students and implemented an after-school tutoring program.

**The Peace Corps,** El Pinar, Dominican Republic

*Health Volunteer, July 1996 – July 1998*

Assisted local doctor, coordinated national AIDS education campaign, oversaw country-wide latrine construction project, and authored a bilingual training manual for the Peace Corps and USAID.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, APPOINTMENTS & CERTIFICATIONS**

Licensed to practice law in Nevada, Colorado, and California (CO and CA held in inactive status)

Selected by Nevada Supreme Court to serve on court-annexed panel of arbitrators

ETS/ACTFL rating of SUPERIOR in Spanish Language Fluency, 1998

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- William C. Holmes & Melissa Mangiaracina, Antitrust Law Handbook and Antitrust Law Sourcebook (2010-2020 eds).
- Ten Things to Know About Parenting Plans in Cases Involving Domestic Violence, Self-Represented Litigants Series, NCJFCJ (2019).
- Navigating Custody Mediation in Cases Involving Domestic Violence: Self-Represented Litigants Series, NCJFCJ (2019).
- Custody Mediation and Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Mediators, NCJFCJ (2019).
- Curriculum: Title 26 New Guardian Ad Litem Training, prepared for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the State of Washington, NCJFCJ (2018).
- Translation: 10 Cosas Que Debe Saber Sobre el Tribunal Familiar (2017).
- Deportation and Children, available in both English and Spanish, NCJFCJ (2017).
- Child Protection Investigations (CPI) Project, NCJFCJ (2016).
- Enhancing Court Services to Victims of Domestic Violence, NCJFCJ (2016).
- Editor: NCJFCJ Synergy, Vol. 19, No. 2, Spring 2016.
- Bohannon, T., Mangiaracina, M., Sicafuse, L., and Zavora, K. (2014). Reasonable Efforts in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases that Involve Domestic Violence. Technical Assistance Bulletin. Reno, NV: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

## **FACULTY POSITIONS**

- Trauma and Child Protection Mediation, Carson City (2019)
- Dispute Resolution and Family Violence: Lessons Learned, Strategies, and Best Practice, AFCC Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada (2019)
- Domestic Violence and Child Protection, Imperial County, CA (2018)
- Improving Child Protection Practice for Immigrant Victims of Family Violence, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Annual Conference, Denver CO (2018)
- Mediating Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence, Nevada Statewide Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (2018)
- Title 26 Guardian Ad Litem Training, Olympia, WA, March 2018 and Spokane, WA, November 2018: Faculty for segments on Child Abuse and Neglect, Interviewing Techniques, Ethics, and Professional Safety.
- Improving Child Welfare Practice for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence, Zero to Three Conference, Ft. Lauderdale FL (2017).
- Immigrants, Immigration and Domestic Violence, NCJFCJ In-Service Training (2017).

## **WEBINARS**

- Custody Mediation and Domestic Violence: What Advocates Should Know. Available at <https://www.rcdvcpc.org/resources/resource-library/resource/webinar-custody-mediation-and-domestic-violence-what-advocates-should-know.html>.
- Improving Child Welfare Practice for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence. Available at <http://www.ncjfcj.org/improving-child-welfare-practice-immigrant-victims-domestic-violence>.
- Collaboration – A look at the Greenbook and the Safe and Together Model. Available at <https://www.rcdvcpc.org/resources/resource/webinar-capta-a-primer-for-advocates.html>.