

Professional Summary

Experienced mediator, arbitrator, and trial attorney with over 30 years of expertise in the resolution and litigation of complex liability claims, including catastrophic injury, wrongful death, products liability, premises liability, transportation, and aviation-related matters. Florida Supreme Court Circuit and County Court Certified Mediator, and Qualified Arbitrator, with a strong background in risk analysis, claims evaluation, and dispute resolution involving significant exposures. Recognized for strategic negotiation skills, emotional intelligence, and the ability to navigate high-stakes, multi-party disputes efficiently. Extensive experience managing sophisticated litigation across diverse industries and jurisdictions.

Education

Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Columbia University in the City of New York, 2023

- GPA: 4.23/4.33

Juris Doctor

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont, 1992

- Phi Delta Phi Honor Society
- Editor for the VLS newspaper, *"The Forum"*

Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Minor in Political Science

Florida International University, Miami, Florida, 1987

- Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, Student Government Association
- Board Member of the FIU Alumni Association from 1988 to 1992

Professional Experience

Montoya Law, P.A. | Founder, Mediator, and Managing Partner | Miami, Florida 1999 – Present

- Successfully manage and oversee mediation, arbitration, litigation, and trial processes across a broad range of complex liability matters.
- Lead the firm's strategic emphasis on alternative dispute resolution, refining and advancing mediation protocols to enhance efficiency and outcomes.
- Directly manage high-value cases, including over 30 jury and non-jury trials and 18 aviation-related incidents governed by the Warsaw Convention, Montreal Convention, and related international treaties.
- Supervise and develop the firm's paralegal and law clerk internship program, which has been continuously active for 22 years, fostering future legal talent and supporting operational excellence.

Bars, Courts & Certifications

- United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2023
- United States District Court Certified Mediator, Middle District of Florida, 2023
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit and County Court Mediator, 39284CR, 2021 (Civil) and 2024 (County)
- Certified Spanish Speaker, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2021
- The District of Columbia Bar Association, 2020
- The United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2003
- United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, 1993
- The Florida Bar, 1993

Areas of Practice

- Catastrophic Injury and Liability Claims

- Wrongful Death and Complex Casualty Matters
- Aviation Disaster Litigation and Claims under International Treaties
- Toxic Tort, Environmental, and Mass Tort Liability
- Products Liability and Defective Products Litigation

Professional Associations & Memberships

- Florida Justice Association, member 1993 – 1999; 2002 – 2010; and 2023 – present
- National Trial Lawyers Association, member, 2015 – present
- Miami Dade Trial Lawyers Association, board member, 2002 – 2006; and 2016 – 2019, member 2002-present
- Colombian American Services Association (CASA), past president and secretary, 1999 – present

Speaking Engagements & Presentations

- *Hispanic Voices in Law: Panel & Discussion*, Florida State University College of Law, Hispanic Student Association, September 26th, 2023
- *Mediation Mastery, Navigating the Personal Injury Case*, Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education, September 12th, 2023.
- *An Evening with Beth Fisher Yoshida*, May 4th, 2023, Moderator
- *Topics on International Aviation Law*, national attorneys, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2015 & 2019
- *Florida Civil Procedure*, National Association of Legal Assistants, Miami Florida, 2001 & 2004
- *Issues on American Law*, Hotel Bogota Plaza, Bogota, Colombia, 2000
- *Aviation Disasters*, The Florida Bar Aviation Committee, Orlando, Florida 1999

Key Verdicts and Settlements

Aviation and Air Disaster Litigation

- *In re: Boeing Max 8 Litigation* (2020) — Confidential settlements
- *In re: Lloyd Aéreo Boliviano (LAB) Air Crash* (2008) — Confidential settlement
- *In re: West Caribbean Air Disaster* (2013) — Confidential settlements
- *In re: Rico Airlines Crash* (2007) — Confidential settlements
- *Clients v. TAME Airlines* (2004) — Confidential settlement
- *Clients v. Air France* (2000) — Confidential settlements
- *In re: Cubana de Aviación Air Crash* (1996) — Confidential settlements
- *In re: SAM Air Disaster* (1993) — Confidential settlements
- *Gomez v. American Airlines* (1998) — \$1.3 million jury verdict
- *Polania v. American Airlines* (1998) — Jury selected, confidential settlement

Products Liability and Mass Tort Litigation

- *Velásquez v. Cooper Tire & Rubber, et al.* (2004) — Confidential settlement
- *In re: Ford-Firestone Litigation* (2003) — Confidential settlements

Catastrophic Injury and Transportation Litigation

- *Lopez et al. v. Lycoming et al.* (2021) — Confidential settlements
- *Fernandez v. O.J. Trucking* (2004) — \$2.3 million jury verdict
- *Rojas v. Inventure Systems Ltd.* (2010) — \$2.2 million jury verdict

Premises and Other Complex Liability Matters

- *Ajar v. Hunter's Run* (2001) — \$2.8 million settlement
- *Clients v. Castle Rock Entertainment* (2001) — Confidential settlements

Honors & Recognitions

- A.V. Preeminent rated by Martindale Hubble, 2002 – present
- Best Lawyers, Top Products Liability Attorney, 2018 – present
- Super Lawyers, Florida Super Lawyer, 2018 – present
- Top 10 Aviation Attorney by The National Trial Lawyers Association, 2017 – present

Additional Skills

- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Outlook, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Access
- Westlaw, Cloudlex, MyCase, Clio, and QuickBooks Pro

Languages & Interests

- Fluent in English and Spanish
- Skiing, racquetball, tennis, and martial arts
- Reading, analysis, research, critical thinking, and writing