

Professional Summary

Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator and Qualified Arbitrator with over 30 years' experience resolving complex, high-value domestic and international disputes in aviation, maritime, commercial, property, and product liability sectors. Advanced training from Columbia University's Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program (GPA 4.23/4.33). Proven record of fostering durable, interest-based settlements through meticulous preparation, active listening, and culturally competent engagement. Bilingual in English and Spanish.

Professional Experience

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

- Lead mediation, arbitration, litigation, and trial strategy for complex civil disputes.
- Conducted mediations and arbitrations in personal injury, wrongful death, aviation related accidents, maritime claims, product liability, construction, real estate, and commercial disputes.
- Managed over 30 jury and non-jury trials and 18 aviation-related accidents governed by international treaties.
- Supervise and mentor law clerks and paralegals in litigation and ADR processes.

Education & Specialized Training

Master of Science, Negotiation & Conflict Resolution, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2023 – GPA: 4.23/4.33

Juris Doctor, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, 1992 – Phi Delta Phi Honor Society

Bachelor of Arts, Economics & Political Science, Florida International University, Miami, FL, 1987

Certifications & Admissions

- 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

Professional Recognition & Engagements

- *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 (Representative Cases)

Aviation and Air Disaster Litigation - Counsel and mediator in multiple international aviation disaster cases including *Boeing Max 8*, *Lloyd Aéreo Boliviano*, *West Caribbean*, *Rico Airlines*, *TAME Airlines*, *Air France*, *Cubana de Aviación*, *SAM Air Disaster*, and major U.S. carriers — all resolved through confidential settlements or verdicts.

Products Liability and Mass Tort Litigation - Represented plaintiffs in *Ford-Firestone* tire defect litigation and *Velásquez v. Cooper Tire*, securing confidential settlements.

Catastrophic Injury and Transportation Litigation - Achieved multi-million-dollar jury verdicts and settlements in *Lopez v. Lycoming*, *Fernandez v. O.J. Trucking*, and *Rojas v. Inventure Systems*, and *Estupinan v. Tropic Oil*, et al.

Premises and Other Complex Liability Matters - Negotiated favorable outcomes in *Ajar v. Hunter's Run*, and *Castle Rock Entertainment*.

Honors & Recognitions

- A.V. Preeminent rated by Martindale Hubble, 2002 – present
- Best Lawyers by U.S. News, Top Products Liability Attorney, 2018 – present
- Best Law Firms by U.S. News, 2021- present
- Super Lawyers, Florida Super Lawyer, 2018 – present
- Top 10 Aviation Attorney by The National Trial Lawyers Association, 2017 – present

Languages & Interests

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