

Melissa A. Rodriguez

Partner

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Overview

Melissa Rodriguez focuses her practice on providing legal counsel to ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families. Her experience lies in guiding clients through complex legal matters about their wealth and assets. Melissa offers personalized and comprehensive counseling to her clients in advance of preparing legal documents such as wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, marital agreements, and sophisticated estate planning documents that include dynasty trusts, intentionally defective grantor trusts (IDGTs), irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs), grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), lifetime spousal access trusts (SLATs), inter vivos qualified terminable interest trusts (QTIPs), and domestic and offshore asset protection trusts.

Melissa's practice also involves helping clients navigate the intricacies of probate and trust administration. She is empathetic to the fact that these matters can be emotionally charged and legally intricate, and is dedicated to providing thoughtful guidance. Her practice includes personal representative, trustee, and beneficiary representation. Melissa works with clients to assess the merits of potential disputes, identify viable solutions, and explore alternative dispute resolution methods. She also assists clients in modifying, decanting, reforming, and terminating trusts.

In addition to trusts and estates, Melissa has experience in preparing and negotiating comprehensive prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. She handles marital agreements for couples with complex marital histories, including second marriages and blended families, and for clients with substantial assets, including real estate holdings, investment accounts, business interests, and significant inheritances or trusts.

* No aspect of these advertisements has been approved by the highest court of any state. See Awards Methodology.

Practices & Industries

Fiduciary and Probate Litigation

LATAM

Matrimonial and Family Law

Private Client

Sports, Media & Entertainment

Tax

Trust & Estates

Education and Credentials

Education

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, L.L.M in Taxation

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, J.D., Certification in Estate Planning

Florida International University, B.A. Accounting

Admissions

State of Florida

Affiliations

American Bar Association, Tax Section, Member

The Florida Bar, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, Member; Tax Section, Member; Family Law Section, Member

Miami Dade Bar, Probate and Guardianship Committee, Member

Cuban American Bar Association, Member

Languages

Spanish

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. See Awards Methodology.

Recognitions

Selected to the list of Florida *Super Lawyers*® Rising Stars, Estate Planning and Probate, 2025-2026

Selected to the list of Ones to Watch for Trusts and Estates in Florida by *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), 2024-2027

Insights

When Paradise Becomes a Probate Battle
WealthManagement.com, November 13, 2025

How to Help Women With Blended Family Estate Plans
WealthManagement.com, June 11, 2025

Tradition vs. Technology: Original Paper Wills Are Still Required
November 7, 2024

Driven by Purpose, Day Pitney
November 6, 2024

Insights Into Florida Trust and Estate Litigation Trends
April 3, 2024

News

Day Pitney Continues to Grow Private Client Department with Addition of Miami-based Partner Melissa Rodriguez
December 18, 2023

In The Media

Prenups are ‘in'—but not for the reason you think
Fast Company, September 1, 2026

Prenups cover more than just marriage and divorce
USA TODAY, August 23, 2026

Melissa Rodriguez Discusses Revocable and Blind Trusts in The Wall Street Journal
The Wall Street Journal , July 9, 2026

Multi-Trillion Dollar Wealth Transfer Puts Trust "Decanting" In Focus
May 11, 2026

January 1, 2026, News and Notes
Florida Bar News, January 1, 2026

Here's Why Florida Retirees Must Update Their Estate Plans Immediately
GOBankingRates , October 31, 2025

On the Move
Florida Bar News, February 1, 2024

Private Client Atty From Akerman Joins Day Pitney in Miami
Law360 Pulse, December 22, 2023

Day Pitney Continues to Grow Private Client Department
Attorney at Law Magazine , December 19, 2023

The Daily Docket Industry Moves
Thomson Reuters, December 19, 2023

Day Pitney Lands Trusts & Estates Attorney from Akerman in Miami
Daily Business Review, December 18, 2023

Day Pitney Recruits Rodriguez as Miami Trusts, Estates Partner
Bloomberg Law, December 18, 2023

"Maven Rising," Maven Leadership Collective
November 4, 2022

"Tax-Exempt Organizations," Maven Leadership Collective
2019-2020

"Domestic Asset Protection Trusts: Key Income and Transfer Tax Implications," Strafford
Strafford, July 15, 2020

An Unwavering Result, Third DCA Analyzes Waivers in the Context of the Former Wage Exemption Statute in Castro v. Mercantil Commercebank, N.A
LISI Asset Protection Planning Newsletter, #407, June 17, 2020

"Restructuring Existing Trusts to Work Under New Tax Law," Strafford
December 3, 2019

"Asset Protection Techniques for Real Estate," Professional Education Broadcast Network
November 5, 2019

The South Dakota Supreme Court Confronts an Out of State Creditor in the Context of the Full Faith & Credit Clause
LISI Asset Protection Planning Newsletter, #391, September 23, 2019