

Cristina Acosta Blunt

Attorney, Mediator & Arbitrator

Experience

Owner/Mediator & Arbitrator

Endeavor Mediation, LLC, Tampa, Florida, *9/2024 - present*; mediation and arbitration practice handling pre-suit and in-suit civil and family law matters throughout Florida.

Director and Trial Attorney

Law Office of Athena Thanos (USAA Litigation Group), Tampa, Florida, *02/2018 – 07/2024*, Managed team of attorneys and staff litigating civil matters involving personal injury, premises liability, and debt collection. Maintained caseload of matters in complex civil litigation throughout Florida through trial and post-trial trial phase as lead attorney. Additional duties included development of strategies for litigating cases; hiring, training, development and retention of employees; create and implement strategic goals, projects and strategies for national and Florida staff counsel departments; Team Lead in development and implementation of national in-house training program for trial attorneys and legal assistants.

Attorney

Counsel on Call, Tampa, FL, *10/2017 – 02/2018*, Litigated personal injury and premises liability civil matters for national insurance client as lead attorney.

Trial Attorney

Law Office of Ellen H. Ehrenpreis (GEICO Staff Counsel), Tampa, Florida, *11/2009 – 10/2014*, Litigated personal injury, premises liability and debt collection civil matters through jury or bench trial phase as lead attorney in central and southwest Florida; Assist in training of new attorneys. Multiple first and second chair trials resulted in complete defense verdicts.

Owner/Attorney

Acosta Blunt Law, P.A., Tampa, Florida, *8/2007 – 9/2017 and 7/2024 - present*; Part-time boutique legal practice handling select civil, family and criminal matters on a fee and pro-bono basis.

Assistant State Attorney

Office of the State Attorney, 4th and 13th Judicial Circuits, Tampa and Jacksonville, Florida, *6/2005 – 8/2007*, Handled misdemeanor and felony criminal, juvenile and family law matters to bench or jury trial phase; Multiple first and second chair jury and bench trials; Draft appeals; Assist in training of new attorneys and interns.

Associate Attorney, McCumber, Inclan, Daniels, Valdez, Buntz & Ferrera, P.A., Jacksonville, Florida, *5/2004 – 6/2005*

Law Clerk, Conroy, Simberg, Ganon, Krevans & Abel P.A., Hollywood, Florida, *5/2003 – 8/2003*

Legal Intern, The Honorable Mario Goderich, Third District Court of Appeal, Miami, Florida, *5/2002–7/2002*

Education

Florida State University, College of Law, Tallahassee, FL - Juris Doctor, April 2004

- Florida State University Business Review, Editor-in-Chief (2003-2004), Managing Editor (2002-

2003)

- Phi Delta Phi Honor Society; M.P.L.E. Scholarship; Judicial Intern Scholarship
- The Florida House of Representatives, Tallahassee, Florida, Speaker's Legislative Fellow - 2002 – 2003

Florida International University, Miami, FL - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, December 2000

- Political Science Honor Society, F.I.U. Debate Team, Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, Panhellenic Council

Admissions, Certifications & More

- Member, Florida Bar
- Member, U.S. District Court, Middle District, Florida
- Certified Mediator, U.S. District Court, Middle District, Florida
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil, County, Family & Appellate Mediator
- Florida Qualified Arbitrator

Language & Skills

- Spanish - Fluent (Verbal, Reading and Writing)
- Crisis Management, Leadership, Communication, Organization, & Problem Solving

Activities

- Tampa Preparatory School P.T.A., Community Position, 2016 – Present
- Dale Mabry Elementary P.T.A., Multiple Positions, including \$500k+ fundraising, 2014 – Present
- The Junior League, Tampa & Jacksonville, FL, Multiple Positions, including \$500k+ fundraising 2005– 2014
- State Representative Carlos Lacasa, Dist. 117, Legislative Aide and Asst. Campaign Director, 1998 – 2001
- Guardian ad Litem Program, Florida, Volunteer and Pro Bono Case Attorney
- Girl Scouts, Volunteer
- Scouting America, Volunteer
- Metropolitan Ministries, Volunteer