

Joseph A. “Tony” Mesa III is the founder and managing member of Mesa Law Firm in Miami, Florida. Tony attended Georgetown University Law Center in Washington D.C., and earned his Juris Doctorate in 2002. While at Georgetown, Tony served as a student ambassador as well as an officer for the Association of Cuban American Law Students. Prior to attending Georgetown, Tony attended Belen Jesuit Preparatory High School and upon graduation went on to Florida International University where he graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and was a graduate of the university’s Honors College.

In the summers after his first and second years of law school, Tony worked as a summer associate at two large, nationally recognized law firms in Miami, Florida. Following graduation from Georgetown, Tony worked as an associate in the litigation and trial practice of one of these firms where he gained extensive experience in the area of complex commercial litigation.

After several years in practice at this prominent firm, Tony founded Mesa Law Firm. Although he still handles select commercial matters, Tony now concentrates his practice on personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Tony has achieved many notable victories for his clients. In 2006, Tony was featured in the *Daily Business Review* as one of the plaintiff attorneys who obtained a multi-million dollar settlement in connection with a complex and lengthy litigation against a governmental agency.

Tony has been selected for inclusion as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers from 2011 – 2016. No more than 2.5% of lawyers in Florida are named to this list. He has also been selected for inclusion as a Florida Legal Elite by Florida Trend Magazine from 2010 – 2016 (as an “Up & Comer” from 2010 – 2013 and as a “Legal Elite” from 2014 – 2016). Further, Tony is rated “AV Preeminent” by the prestigious publication *Martindale-Hubbell*, the highest rating available for legal ability and professional ethics.

Throughout his professional career, Tony has always placed great importance on community involvement. From his service on the United Way of Miami Dade Board of Trustees and as a United Way of Miami-Dade Young Leader, to his pro bono legal services for Habitat for Humanity, Tony has made community work part of his mission.

Tony considers some of his most important community involvement to be his work on the Board of Directors for Sports Leadership Arts and Management Academy Charter School (“SLAM”) in Miami. SLAM is located in one of the city’s most impoverished neighborhoods, and services an overwhelmingly minority student population. The public charter school educates and prepares students for a myriad of careers in sports, ranging from sports medicine and media production to marketing, nutrition, entertainment, and management, unlocking seemingly unattainable opportunities within the industry for its students. Tony also serves as the Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board of the SLAM Foundation, which helps direct the school’s growing list of corporate partnerships and supports the school’s expansion in Miami, as well as the replication of its successful model throughout the country. SLAM’s growth took an important step in 2016,

when it was awarded a channel on Sirius XM Satellite Radio to be produced by students of the SLAM network, the first-ever school to receive such an honor.

### **Professional and Community Involvement**

- SLAM Foundation, Founding Director and Officer, Board of Directors, Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board, 2015-Present
- Sports Leadership Arts and Management Charter School, Board of Directors, 2016-Present
- United Way of Miami-Dade, Board of Trustees, 2003-2006
- United Way of Miami-Dade, Young Leaders, 2002-2014
- Florida Justice Association, Member, 2008-Present
- Cuban American Bar Association, Member, 2011-Present

### **Recognition**

- *Florida Trend's Legal Elite* (“*Legal Elite*” and “*Up & Comer*”), selected for inclusion, 2010-2016
- *Florida Super Lawyers* (“*Rising Star*”), selected for inclusion, 2011-2016
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV Preeminent rating
- *Avvo*, Clients’ Choice Award, 2012
- *Daily Business Review*, featured in August 2006 “Jury Verdicts & Settlements”