



**Division of Student Learning and Academic Success
College of Undergraduate Studies**

Advisory Board



Michael Mendez

Partner at the law firm of Colombo & Hurd, PL.

Michael Mendez is a partner at the law firm of Colombo & Hurd, PL., where he leads the firm's family-based immigration and deportation defense practice in cases involving Requests for Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Cancellation of Removal and Waivers of Grounds of Removability. Since Mr. Mendez worked for the Public Defender's Office of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, where he obtained valuable skills with regard to criminal defense law, Mr. Mendez specifically has an abundant amount of experience concerning immigration cases involving criminal matters. In his years of service as an Orlando Deportation Attorney Mr. Mendez has become experienced in the field of "Crimmigration" combining his experience and knowledge of criminal defense with his unique understanding of US immigration law.

Throughout his years of practice, Mr. Mendez has had the privilege to successfully litigate deportation cases throughout the state of Florida and the United States. He has notably won deportation cases before all currently presiding Immigration Judges in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Mendez believes that in life sometimes we make bad choices; however, we all deserve a second chance no matter where we come from.

Mr. Mendez is equally qualified to represent clients in appeals and other immigration matters such as investor and employment-based immigration petitions, fiancé visas, naturalizations, and adjustment petitions. Mr. Mendez will go to any length to try and obtain the best results for his clients, including international travel.

Mr. Mendez was born in Queens, N.Y. of parents who migrated from the Dominican Republic. Throughout his youth he witnessed the struggles his parents made to remain in this country and achieve the American dream. Seeing his immediate and extended family go through complications with the immigration process has provided Mr. Mendez with the ability to relate to his clients on a personal level. Aside from other speaking engagements, Mr. Mendez has had the honor of serving as a panelist at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies Conference, where he educated judges throughout the state of Florida on the legal technicalities of U.S. immigration law.

Mr. Mendez has been a resident of the city of Orlando since 1999 and has made efforts to give back to both his city and Alma Mater, the University of Central Florida. Mr. Mendez has served as Chair of the City of Orlando Chapter 57 Board where he and fellow board members reviewed determinations of Chapter 57 and HUD complaints of discrimination filed under the protected class of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation or retaliation. He further served as Chair of the former UCF Legal Knights, which was UCF's first attorney-based alumni association.

Areas of Practice

Immigration

Criminal Defense

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida (B.S., Business Administration, 2004)

Florida A&M University College of Law (J.D., 2007)

MEMBERSHIPS

The Florida Bar

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American Bar Association

Hispanic National Bar Association

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Admitted to Bar 2007, Florida; Florida Supreme Court

LANGUAGES

English

Spanish

Portuguese