

*Diana Santa Maria
Trial Attorney & Mediator
The Do's & Don'ts of Mediation
Broward County Hispanic Bar Association
October 13, 2011*



University Place

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Educational Background:

Diana received her law degree from the University of Miami School of Law in Coral Gables, Florida. Since becoming admitted to The Florida Bar (in 1985) she has devoted her practice to the representation of persons injured as a result of the negligence of others.

Law Practice, Membership & Leadership Roles:

In 1991 Diana formed her own practice specializing in Plaintiff's Personal Injury, Wrongful Death and Medical Malpractice. She is a member of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) and is the President- Elect of its Ft. Lauderdale Chapter; she also presently serves on the Florida Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, on the South Broward Bar Assn. Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors for the National Crime Victim's Bar Assn.

From 1996 – 2006 Diana served on the Florida Justice Assn. (formerly the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers') Board of Directors; she has served a 5 year term on the Broward County Bar Assn.'s Board of Directors and a 4 year term on the Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Nominating Commission. Diana is a member of the American Justice Assn., the Florida Justice Assn. and the Broward Justice Assn.

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Honors

*AV rated by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory for over a decade, Diana Santa Maria is listed among its Pre-Eminent Lawyers. Additionally Diana has been consistently named among the **Best Lawyers in America** and South Florida's **Super Lawyers**.*

Mediation Practice and Bilingual Mediators

In addition to her law practice, in 2009 Diana became a Certified Circuit Civil Mediator and formed a Mediation Company called Bilingual Mediators focusing on providing Mediators who speak 2nd languages

Author and Lecturer

*In addition to her practice, Diana has been an active member of The Florida Bar and its Trial Bar. She has lectured and written on numerous legal topics within her field, to include **Seven Steps to Effective Mediation** published in the June, 1997 TRIAL magazine as well as **Guideline for Handling Sexual Abuse of a Minor by a Public School Teacher**, published in the Nova Law Review Summer 2009 (Vol.33 number 3) Journal.*

Some of her past articles and presentations on the topic of Mediation include:

- ***Mediation Strategy and Techniques (AFTL 1996)***
- ***7 Steps To Effective Mediation (ATLA June 1997 Trial Magazine)***
- ***Demand Packages that Get Results and Winning at Mediation (AFTL 1999)***
- ***Persuasion-Settlement Techniques at Mediation (2000)***
- ***Settlement and Negotiation in Mediation (AFTL June, 2002)***
- ***Negotiating, Mediating, Settling and Trying Personal Injury Cases (2009)***

Diana will share her insights on the Mediation process based on her experience over the past 15 years both as a trial attorney and more recently as a Mediator.