



JULISSA R. HERNANDEZ

Associate

jhernandez@preiralaw.com

Julissa Rodriguez Hernandez, an associate with the firm, received her Bachelor of Science from Florida International University in Miami, Florida in 1997, with a major in criminal justice. While attending Florida International University, she participated in an internship at Miami-Dade County's Office of the State Attorney where she assisted in the preparation of complex felony prosecutions. In 2001, Julissa graduated from Stetson University, where she was awarded the Victor O. Wehle Trial Advocacy Award. She competed as part of Stetson's Trial Team and won first place in the ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition. She was president of the Hispanic Bar Association and was listed in *Who's Who Among American Law School Students* in 1999, 2000,

and 2001.

Julissa began her legal career as an Assistant State Attorney for Miami-Dade County's Office of the State Attorney where she handled misdemeanor domestic violence cases and felony cases at all levels. She was a Division Chief at Juvenile Court, where she assisted in the training of new Assistant State Attorneys. She was later assigned to the narcotics unit where she prosecuted complex multi-defendant narcotics cases from the investigatory phases through sentencing. She has extensive experience working with law enforcement agencies.

Julissa then worked for Miami-Dade County's Consumer Services Department as their legal advisor where she handled all aspects of the Passenger Transportation Regulatory Division. She conducted hearings on behalf of the Consumer Services Department where she enforced Miami-Dade County Ordinances that pertained to licensed vehicles such as taxicabs, jitneys, private school buses, and passenger motor carriers. While at the Consumer Services Department, she taught Small Claims Court seminars throughout Miami-Dade County in English and Spanish.

Julissa has been with the firm since July 2007, and handles both family and criminal law cases. Her prior experience as an Assistant State Attorney makes her a valuable asset in cases that involve allegations of domestic violence, abuse, and injunctions. She is admitted to practice in Florida and is admitted to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. She is a member of the Family Law Inns of Court, the Cuban American Bar Association, and the Dade County Bar Association. Julissa is fluent in Spanish.

When not diligently working, Julissa sings with a church choir, enjoys traveling and spending time with her extended family. She is happily married to a Miami-Dade Police Officer, adores her 9 year old step-son, and is thrilled to be expecting her first child in September 2008.