

# MELISSA L. DECKER

Mesa ODR mediator Melissa Decker is an experienced divorce and family lawyer, who brings the compassion borne of her personal experience as a parent of three young children to her mediation practice.



Melissa received her education at Yale, Stanford and the University of Colorado at Boulder School of Law. Melissa enjoys mediating family law cases because mediation not only helps litigants avoid the emotional and financial drain of litigation, but that it also helps parties reach lasting and meaningful settlements. Unlike leaving it up to the people in the black robes, mediation helps parties decide their own outcomes and it is affordable, confidential, private and expedient.

Melissa's private law and mediation practice – Law for Locals, LLC – is dedicated to helping Western Slope locals. Before opening her private practice in 2010, Melissa was a litigator and, in 1998-1999, clerked for now Chief Justice Nancy E. Rice during Justice Rice's first year on the Colorado Supreme Court.

While her law practice currently focuses on the full range of family law matters including dissolution, post-decree and parenting-related matters, in both amicable and high-conflict cases, she also has experience in bankruptcy/collections law, landlord/tenant matters, criminal defense, trusts and estates, water law, environmental law, and business matters including real estate law and homeowners' association issues.

Melissa is also proficient in Spanish, as she holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Melissa recommends that Spanish-speaking parties make sure to request that the court provide a free court interpreter for their mediations, despite her facility in Spanish.

## Contact Information:

**E-mail:** [lawforlocalsllc@gmail.com](mailto:lawforlocalsllc@gmail.com)

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**Education:** Yale University, B.A. 1991; Stanford University, M.A. 1994; University of Colorado at Boulder School of Law, J.D. 1997 (Law Review Articles Editor); Mediation 40-hr course with Judy Mares-Dixon, 2007; significant additional coursework & mediation training.

## **MEDIATION RATES:**

1. \$60/hr for each party to Mesa County domestic cases, with a 2 hr minimum (\$120 mediation deposit due from both parties at least 7 days in advance of scheduled mediation);
2. With IFP or fee waiver issued within last 6 months, \$10/hr per party, with a 2 hr minimum (\$20 mediation deposit due from fee waiver parties only at least 7 days in advance of scheduled mediation);
3. All other civil cases, \$75/hr for each party, with a 3 hr minimum (\$225 deposit due from both parties at least 7 days in advance of scheduled mediation).

## **TO MAKE A MEDIATION DEPOSIT PAYMENT:**

1. Post a check to Law for Locals, LLC, PO Box 504, Minturn, CO 81645 (USPS only); or
2. To make a credit card payment, go to <https://payments.lawpay.com/bpl/lp2433934>.