



W. Leonard Athas, Esq.

Of-Counsel to The MPM Group, Inc.

As the principal legal consultant and case strategist to The MPM Group, Mr. Athas can be contacted through The MPM Group, Inc. at legal@thempmgroup.com (**DO NOT** send case sensitive or privileged information to this email address)

Mr. Athas is only licensed to practice law in the State of Florida.

BAR

Admitted to the Florida Bar, 1996, (Bar No.0078247)

Admitted to the U.S. District Court, Northern, Central, Southern Districts of Florida in 1996. Admitted U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, 1997

EDUCATION

University of Miami, School of Law, Miami, FL: JD, 1995

Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, B.A., Sociology, 1979

U.S. State Dept. Foreign Service Institute, 1986, Spanish Language Training

National Advocacy Center, Columbia, SC, 2006, Criminal Trial Advocacy Seminar for government prosecutors

Continuing Legal Education: 1996 to Present (30 credit hours per three-year cycle)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private Defense Attorney, 2014 to Present: Following nine years as an Assistant U. S. Attorney with the U. S. Attorney's Office, Miami, Florida, Mr. Athas opened a sole practitioner defense law practice representing clients for domestic and international federal and state drug trafficking offenses, international extraditions, federal civil matters, and a wide range of state and federal criminal and civil matters.

Mr. Athas has successfully represented clients in criminal matters in numerous Florida State Court proceedings, in U. S. District Court for the Southern District and Middle District of Florida, in U. S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and in U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. Although only licensed in the State of Florida, Mr. Athas may be available *Pro Hac Vice* on a case-by-cases basis.

Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Miami, FL, 2005 to 2014: Appointed as a federal prosecutor assigned to the Narcotic Section prosecuting federal criminal offenses involving drug trafficking and related offenses to include, but not limited to, gun and weapon offenses, murder, kidnapping, carjacking, counterfeiting U. S. currency, health care fraud, mortgage fraud, police corruption, armed robbery, and other offenses. Mr. Athas was an appointed Special Assistant U. S. Attorney for four years while still employed as a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent. When Mr. Athas retired from the DEA in 2008, he was hired full-time as an Assistant U. S. Attorney in the U. S. Attorney's Office, Miami, Florida from 2009 to 2014.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent, 1980 to 2008: Assigned to multiple posts of duty including **DEA Miami Division, Miami, FL, 1988 to 2005:** Special Agent/Criminal Investigator conducting complex criminal investigations against large-scale criminal organizations;

DEA Barranquilla, Colombia, South America Resident Office, 1986 to 1988: Assigned to the U.S. Consulate in Barranquilla, Colombia. Conducted official liaison with Colombian anti-narcotics authorities, criminal investigations on behalf of U.S. Law Enforcement entities, and carried out intelligence activities relating to international narcotics matters; **DEA Baltimore Resident Office, Baltimore, MD, 1980 to 1986**

Incidental: Prior to DEA Mr. Athas was a Maryland State Police Trooper and Detective.

**FOREIGN
EXPERIENCE**

U.S. Consulate, Barranquilla, Colombia. Additional official duties performed in Canada; Bahamas; Puerto Rico; French, Dutch and British West Indies; Mexico; Costa Rica; Panama; France; Italy; Spain; Switzerland.

**NOTABLE
EVENTS/CASES**

DEA case agent in *United States v. Miguel Rodriguez-Orejuela* and *Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela*, founders and leaders of the Cali, Colombia drug trafficking cartel.

United States v. Victor Patiño Fomeque, a multi-thousand kilogram Colombian cocaine transporter associated with the Cali Cartel.

United States v. Kenneth Williams et al. Two-year investigation, 18 subjects indicted for importing over three tons of cocaine and committing 25 homicides.

United States v. Manuel Noriega et al., **Co-case Agent:** Panamanian dictator indicted and convicted for international narcotics trafficking.

AWARDS

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, national award; U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of the U.S. Attorney, Director's Award, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer (multiple); Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Bravery Award; U.S. DEA Commendation for Outstanding Contribution to the Federal Service; DEA Administrator's Award