BERGER SINGERMAN
FLORIDA'S BUSINESS LAW FIRM

MELANIE ANN HINES

Of Counsel

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Melanie Hines has practiced law for more than 40 years. A former statewide prosecutor for twelve years, Melanie has extensive experience interacting with the Legislature, Executive branch agencies, including the Governor's Office and the Florida Cabinet, and the Judiciary. In her role as statewide prosecutor, she served as legal adviser to seven separate statewide grand juries. As a result of her work in the areas of economic crime, consumer protection, and state licensing regulations, she is knowledgeable in virtually all State government practice areas affecting Florida's business interests.

Melanie focuses her practice in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, administrative law, and civil litigation. Since joining Berger Singerman, she has represented corporate and individual clients in grand jury investigations, before regulatory licensing boards, in defense of agency enforcement actions, and in civil RICO and fraud cases. She has also conducted internal investigations for public and private entities.

Education

J.D., *with honors*, Florida State University College of Law
B.S. in Criminology/Psychology, *magna cum laude*, Florida State University

Bar Admissions

Florida
U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida
U.S. Supreme Court

Practice Teams

Government and Regulatory
Dispute Resolution

Practice Areas

Administrative Hearings & Appeals
Banking & Financial Services Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Complex Fraud & Securities Litigation
Government Disputes

Representative Matters

- Advising clients in the defense of ethics charges
- Independent counsel to a major educational institution regarding potential contract-related conflicts of interest
- Counsel to hotels and other businesses under investigation for storm-related price gouging
- Independent co-counsel to the Board of a special taxing district, and its Audit Committee, in an internal investigation of alleged charter violations and contracting improprieties
- Co-lead counsel to a Fortune 1000 publicly traded company under nationwide investigation by State Attorneys General; negotiated successful resolutions in 50 jurisdictions (49 states and the District of Columbia)
- Counsel to a charitable foundation in a suit to recover losses from the Madoff Ponzi scheme
- Independent Counsel to the Florida House of Representatives in ethics proceedings
- Counsel to a former state regulator in a grand jury investigation
- Special Counsel to the State Division of Insurance Rehabilitation and Liquidation for Receivership litigation and asset recovery
- Independent Counsel to Florida's State Board of Administration Audit Committee regarding the Local Government Investment Pool
- Independent Counsel to a major public utility regarding economic development tax credits
- Independent Counsel to the Florida Democratic Party
- Counsel to a national start-up precious metals dealer
- Counsel to architects, building contractors, engineers, health care professionals, medical centers, pharmaceutical companies, real estate brokers, restaurants, and securities dealers
- Criminal defense counsel to individuals and businesses under investigation or indicted for fraud- related offenses in state and federal court
- Defense of employment discrimination and ADA claims
- Legislative lobbying experience

- Represented major charity in response to whistleblower's claims of fraudulent medical insurance billing practices, including supervision of internal investigation and self-reporting of findings, resulting in closure of regulatory investigations with no action

Awards & Honors

- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV® Preeminent™ rated
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2007-2027
    - *Best Lawyers*, Criminal Defense: White-Collar Lawyer of the Year (Tallahassee), 2020, 2022
- *Florida Super Lawyers,* 2006-2023
- *Florida Trend,* Legal Elite, Criminal Law, 2006-2012, 2014-2015
- Florida Association of Women Lawyers' Leader in the Law, 2012
- Florida Bar Presidential Award of Merit, 2007
- Florida Commission on the Status of Women, Outstanding Achievement Award, 2003
- Recipient of Florida Cabinet Resolutions for Public/Private Partnerships in Crime Prevention, 1998-2002

Community Activities / Associations

- Member, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Member, Senior Circuit Judge Review Panel (2010- June 2022)
- Member, Federal Judicial Nominating Commission, Northern District Conference (2009-2018)
- United Way "Power of the Purse" Steering Committee (2007-2008)
- Florida Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Florida Class XXIII graduate
- Member, Judicial Management Council (2007-2008)
- Member, Florida Bar Professionalism Committee (2007-2009)
- FSU Law School Adjunct Professor, Corporate Governance, Trial Skills (2003-2004)
- Past President, William H. Stafford American Inn of Court (2004-2005)
- Past President, Tallahassee Bar Association (2001-2002)
- Chair, Florida Bar Criminal Law Section (2003-2004) and Criminal Rules Committee (1995-1996)
- Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee (2005-2007)
- Florida Bar Foundation Fellow
- American Bar Association Fellow
- Prosecutor/Public Defender Training Program Faculty Member (2004)
- Court-appointed volunteer Guardian/Attorney Ad Litem for Dependent Children

In the News

Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 33rd Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 20, 2026

Fifty-Six Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2025 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 15, 2024

Forty-Three Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2023 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 18, 2022

Twenty-three Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers
June 27, 2022

Thirty-Nine Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 19, 2021

Nineteen Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2021 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers
June 24, 2021

Thirty-Five Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 19, 2020

Twenty-Seven Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2020 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers
June 8, 2020

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2020 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2019

Twenty-Eight Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2019 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers
May 29, 2019

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2019 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2018

Tallahassee Democrat: Briefcase: July 8
July 8, 2018

Thirty-One Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2018 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers
June 17, 2018

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2018 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2017

Berger Singerman Attorneys Melanie Ann Hines and Danny Ponce to Serve on the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission
July 11, 2017

Twenty-Eight Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2017 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2016

Thirty-Six Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2016 Super Lawyers Florida Edition
June 13, 2016

Doing Business in Florida Blog

We’re All in This Together
June 19, 2018

Prior Affiliations

- Statewide Prosecutor, Florida Office of the Attorney General (1991-2003)
- Office of the Governor, Statewide Grand Jury Legal Unit
- Office of the Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit
- Law Offices of Albert J. Krieger, P.A.