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Hawkins Melendrez, PC

Not just Advocates – *Counselors*

By Dan Baldwin

Hawkins Melendrez, PC, is a boutique law firm concentrating on civil litigation and defense, including business, real estate, premise liability and personal injury disputes. Headquartered in Las Vegas, the firm represents clients from the United States, Canada and France with interests in Nevada.

According to partner Geoffrey W. Hawkins, the firm's rapid growth and success can be attributed chiefly to its ability to identify with each client, focus on their specific needs and tailor a solution to resolve their unique challenges.

Partner Martin I. Melendrez says, "In our experience advocacy on behalf of the client, while an important component of what attorneys do, should be complemented with simultaneous legal counseling to ensure clients understand what seeking legal action against another party truly could mean for themselves and their outcome, which is part of a more personalized approach to each case. We have a great rapport with our clients and through legal counseling we've been successful in avoiding litigation and resolving disputes without protracted or contentious litigation, when the case called for that approach."

Hawkins is a graduate of Humboldt State University and the Marquette University Law School. He was admitted to the bar in Wisconsin in 2000 and Nevada in 2001. He is an adjunct professor of legal courses for the University of Phoenix and provides courses on ethics, business and employment law, as well as, corporate and social responsibility.

"With every case there's certainly competition," Hawkins says. "An attorney is always trying to meet his or her client's needs against the opposition by winning."

Melendrez earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, his Juris Doctor from the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV and was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 2001.

Melendrez personally focuses on the legal writing area of the law, an integral facet of being an attorney.

"I really enjoy this part of the legal process and it can be vital in resolving a client's case," he says. "We impact the lives of our clients every day and through effective legal writing we are able to assert our clients' positions long before we actually argue it before a judge."

Hawkins Melendrez is a client first, team-oriented law firm. "Geoffrey and I, together with our associates, collaborate with our team of paralegals, law clerks and legal staff, to prepare strategies to achieve client goals," says Melendrez. "The firm's culture is simple: client-focused and team-oriented to achieve client goals, which are sometimes evolving concepts."

Hawkins compares their approach to that of a think tank. "We all work together at different angles. In almost every case everybody on our team has input. We definitely sit down in a round table concept and everybody contributes possible angles with possible strategies," he says.

Accessibility is one of the keys of their success. Each partner handles his own caseload which provides each client with an attorney with significant trial and corporate business experience. "Our clients meet with attorneys who handle cases on a day-to-day basis rather than being farmed out to junior associates with just one or two years of experience," Hawkins says.

Melendrez says, "Our turnaround time when a client calls us is usually less than an hour or two. There's always the potential for the next-day callback, but typically Geoffrey and I are extremely responsive and our clients are able to reach us, most times, within minutes."

As Hawkins Melendrez, PC continues its growth to better serve its client base, partners Hawkins and Melendrez want to do so in a way that will ensure consistent and personalized quality work on behalf of their clients. "We want to remain focused on quality, responsiveness and effective representation, first and foremost."

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