



# RISING STAR

WEEKLY PROFILE OF  
A TAMPA BAY YOUNG  
PROFESSIONAL

## Melinda Morris

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### Q: What do you do in your day job?

**A:** After years of working for others and gaining a tremendous amount of experience, I have followed through with my dream to open my own law firm, specializing in criminal defense.

### Q: What makes you a Rising Star?

**A:** I have a passion for the practice of law and helping others. I've worked as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office and as an Insurance Defense Attorney. My plan was always to establish my own law firm, where I'm able to use my litigation skills on behalf of my clients, and serve the community as well.

### Q: What's your favorite quote?

**A:** "The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not on my gender." – Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

### Q: What's your TV guilty pleasure?

**A:** Dancing with the Stars. Beyond watching, I would love to be on the show. I've always loved dance and enjoy movies about dancing like, "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" that featured an early Sarah Jessica Parker.

### Q: What are three things you want to do before you die?

**A:** Only one: Do what Matt did from [www.wherethehellismatt.com](http://www.wherethehellismatt.com) and dance through 39 countries on all 7 continents. If you watch the videos of his dancing you can see the joy he has experienced and given to others from exploring the world.

### Q: Who is your mentor? Why?

**A:** I am lucky to have two - my parents. They have run a successful business, are great life coaches, and wonderful parents - all the things I aspire to be.

### Q: What do you want to be remembered for?

**A:** I want to be remembered for my integrity, for treating others well, for being a successful litigator on behalf of others and, most importantly, for being a wonderful mother and wife.

### Q: Do you have any advice for others who may wish to start their own business?

**A:** The best advice I could give is to be true to yourself, live each day to the fullest, and when it all gets to be too much - dance.