Jose A. Melendez Cruz

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR · LIC. 1253

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EDUCATION

M.A. in Criminal Justice and Criminology — 2017
Universidad Del Este, Carolina, PR

B.A. in Criminal Justice — 2012
Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Aguadilla, PR

LICENSE

Puerto Rico Private Investigator License No. 1253

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private Investigator — 2013 – Present

Independent private investigator handling investigations involving white collar crimes, money laundering, organized crime, firearms, narcotics, bank fraud, child pornography, human trafficking, and immigration, including mitigation and death penalty cases in several U.S. federal court districts.

DEATH-PENALTY ELIGIBLE CASES

District of Puerto Rico

- Jean Carlos Ramos-Piñeiro — 12-200
- Christian Torres-Cabrera — 13-141
- Orlando Mojica-Rodriguez — 15-075
- Luis Guerrido-Medina — 16-218
- Luis Carmona-Bernacet — 16-547
- Benjamín Melendez-Rivera — 17-611
- Juan E. Rivera-Serrano — 17-622
- Rafael Marcano-Rodriguez — 17-778
- Dereck Muñoz-Rivera — 18-023
- Jorge Rodriguez-Santo — 18-298
- Erick Pizarro-Mercado — 18-451
- Michael Quiles-Guzman — 19-643
- Manuel Santiago-Hernández — 19-677
- Luis Cadis-Martinez — 21-161
- Luis Caban-Nieves — 21-473
- Miguel Gonzalez-Sanchez — 23-273
- Carlos Rolon Perez — 23-273
- Jose Martinez-Serrano — 24-133
- Gabriel Maunez Ayala — 25-330
- Jean Carlos Ramos Valdivia — 25-466
- Luis Irizarry Zapata — 26-186

District of Philadelphia

- Yomar Velazquez-Figueroa — 19-152

Southern District of Texas

- Walter Chica-Garcia — 22-018

District of the Virgin Islands — St. Croix

- Jiovoni Smith — 23-016 (Not guilty in trial)

DEATH PENALTY CASES

District of Philadelphia

- Josue Ortiz-Betancourt — 25-460

District of Orlando

- Jordanish Torres-Garcia — 24-137

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Caribbean Division, San Juan, PR — **2008 – 2013**

Assigned to the DEA/HIDTA San Juan MOI Group. Conducted organized crime, white collar crime, money laundering, and bank fraud investigations.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Caribbean Division, San Juan, PR — **2002 – 2008**

Assigned to Task Force Group 1. Temporarily assigned in 2005 to the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET). Conducted several organized crime investigations.

Puerto Rico Police Department — Carolina Narcotics Unit — **1997 – 2002**

Supervisor of the Undercover Investigations Section. Responsible for supervising three agents, four undercover agents, and several undercover investigations in Carolina, San Juan, and Bayamón.

Puerto Rico Police Department — Carolina Narcotics Unit — **1996 – 1997**

Assigned to the Organized Crime Investigations Section. Conducted organized crime investigations in the Carolina area.

Puerto Rico Police Department — Carolina Narcotics Unit — **1994 – 1996**

Assigned to the Drug Point Investigations Section. Conducted drug point investigations in the Carolina area.

Puerto Rico Police Department, Carolina, PR — **1992 – 1994**

Carolina Tactical Unit. Patrol Officer.

Puerto Rico Police Department, Loíza, PR — **1991 – 1992**

Loíza Precinct. Patrol Officer.

Puerto Rico Police Department, San Juan, PR — **1990 – 1991**

Graduated from the Puerto Rico Police Department Academy.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

As a member of the Puerto Rico Police Department

- Recruitment and Supervision of Undercover Agents — 1996
- Drug Task Force Investigations — 1996
- Basic Drug Law Enforcement School — 1997
- Narcotics Field Test — 1998
- Seminar of Supervision of Undercover Agents — 1998

As a Task Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

- Internet Telecommunications Exploitation Program — 2004
- Interview and Interrogation — 2004
- Basic Telecommunications Exploitation Program — 2006
- Special Agent Diversion School No. 7 — 2007
- International Money Laundering Investigations — 2007
- Asset Forfeiture Training No. 144 — 2007
- Money Laundering Seminar No. 1 — 2008
- Follow the Money — 2009
- Power Point for Public Safety — 2010
- Basic Concealed Traps Training Initiative — 2012
- Federal Currency Seizure Processing — 2012
- Federal Criminal Discovery — 2013

LANGUAGES

- Spanish — Native language
- English — Speaks, reads, and writes

COMPUTER PROGRAMS

- Word, Excel, and PowerPoint