

Melanie S. Griffin is the Tampa Office Managing Shareholder of the Dean Mead Law Firm and Founder of Spread Your Sunshine.

At Dean Mead, Melanie began in the firm's Orlando office. She quickly became known for her impressive courtroom and settlement victories, including championing commercial litigation, intellectual property, and labor and employment issues for businesses and the trust and probate litigation and agribusiness needs of prominent Florida families. Engrained in the community, Melanie shined as a servant leader. In 2011-12, she was President of the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, then the largest women lawyer's chapter in the State that won the Chapter of the Year Award at the end of her presidency. In 2013-14, she led The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division as President of one of the nation's largest young lawyers groups with approximately 25,000 members. In 2015, Melanie was elected a Dean Mead Equity Shareholder, after being one of the youngest attorneys in the firm's history to receive an AV rating by Martindale Hubbell in only her fourth year of practice.

Three years ago, Melanie assumed her most significant firm role, founding Dean Mead's Tampa Office, it's now fifth Florida office. Through her firm leadership, Melanie was named Florida's 2009 Most Productive Young Lawyer, featured as the Fall 2013 FSU College of Law Cover Story, recognized for eight consecutive years in *Super Lawyers* (Rising Star 2010-17) and *Florida Trend Legal Elite* (Up & Comer 2010-14, Commercial Litigation 2014-17) and two consecutive years as a *Best Lawyer in America* (Commercial Litigation 2017-18). In 2016, she was honored as a *Tampa Bay Metro* Inspiring Woman in Business, *Tampa Bay Business Journal* BusinessWoman of the Year Legal Services Finalist, and Florida State University Notable Nole. In 2017, she was recognized as a *Best of Tampa Bay* honoree, one of *Orlando's Best Lawyers* in *Orlando Magazine*, and a *Creative Loafing Best of the Bay* Best Local Activist and Best Local Citizen nominee. Additionally, in August 2017, Governor Rick Scott appointed her to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) where she serves as Chair of the Policy Committee and a member of the Finance Committee.

Above all, Melanie's passion is mentoring. Her mentorship of hundreds of students and young professionals was recognized through her receipt of the 2016 *Tampa Bay Business Journal* BusinessWoman of the Year Angie's Award and 2017 Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Woman of Promise Award and Florida State University Inspire Award. Living a life of mentorship, Melanie founded Spread Your Sunshine to empower women with the confidence to break the glass ceiling and achieve their dreams. Melanie's definition of success is positively impacting the lives of others to inspire their journeys and motivate them to "pay it forward" to and raise-up the next generation.