

Melissa Alagna:

I think I'm an attorney because I've always liked research and writing and advocating for a position. So I really enjoy talking to people and getting their side of the story and helping them put forth their argument the best way we can. I was getting my journalism degree and I realized that I really like advocating for a specific position as opposed to being more generic. So that's when I decided to go to law school. What I really like about appeals is that it's really a giant puzzle. So you get all of the pieces handed to you from what has occurred at the lower court, and you get to put it together and figure out what's missing and what issues may not have been addressed properly.

Melissa Alagna:

I think it's important for a client to find an attorney that focuses on appellate law because the rules and the procedures are so specific that if you find someone who dabbles, there's a lot of nuances that they might miss. Whereas if it's someone who is experienced in appellate law, it's things that come at second nature. So you won't lose that in your case.

Melissa Alagna:

I met Shannon and we started talking about how she's very client-centric. So spending a lot of time with the client to figure out what their positions are and where they're having issues and what they really want the court to understand. That's always the way I've done things also. I really try to focus on what the client needs and making sure that those needs are met.

Melissa Alagna:

I think the team at Florida Appeals is almost like a family. So we all work together. We are calling each other, bouncing ideas off of each other, brainstorming together, and really pulling together to make sure that all of the cases have everyone's expertise and are going in the direction that they should be.

Melissa Alagna:

The most rewarding part of the appeals for me is after we've been working on a brief for a few months and you get to send it to the client for the client to review before filing and the client tells you, "this is exactly what I've been trying to say and I just couldn't find the words to do it. And you've put it down on paper exactly the way I wanted it to come across." That's the most rewarding thing.