# M. TOD MELTON

## NEUTRAL MEDIATOR

Joliet · Dixon · Rock Island| Phone: (309) 794-0784 |
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*Tod Melton is a full-time alternative resolution neutral and a semi-retired trial lawyer licensed in the States of Illinois, Iowa and Mississippi, as well as numerous federal courts. He has resolved cases involving everything from eight-figure demands to matters driven by personal pride. As a defense attorney, he was successful in achieving defense verdicts that sometimes involved less than 10 minutes of jury deliberation. As a plaintiff's attorney, he achieved record-setting multi-million-dollar verdicts in multiple rural counties, and many more seven & eight figure settlements. Mr. Melton also holds two certificates in mediation skills from nationally ranked dispute resolution programs. His passion is helping both plaintiffs and defendants to find healing, peace, and finality through a process that generates an agreed solution.*

HONORS

- Best Lawyers in America **2026 - Present**
- Leading Lawyers in Illinois **2021 - Present**
- William J. Harte Amicus Award **2008**
- The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 **2019 – Present**
- Medical Malpractice Trial Lawyers Top 25 **2020 – Present**
- Elite Lawyer **2023 - Present**
- National Association of Distinguished Counsel Top 1% **2023 - Present**

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Advocacy **2022 – Present**

- **Carmelite NGO**
- **NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP)**

Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases **2013 – 2021**

Illinois Trial Lawyers Association

- **Executive Committee** **2007-2012**
- **Legislative Chairman** **2006-2012**
- **Board of Managers** **2005-2012**
- **Seminar Committee Chair** **2005-2006**
- **Board of Advocates** **2001-2005**
- **Civil Practice and Rules Committee**

American Association for Justice

Iowa Association for Justice

Whiteside County Bar Association

- **President** **2027-2028**
- **Secretary** **1998-1999**

Lee County Bar Association

Rock Island County Bar Association

LaSalle County Bar Association

Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel

- **Subcommittee on Insurance Coverage Law** **1993-1998**

CERTIFICATES

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|---|---|---|
| Mitchell Hamline School of Law | Certificate in Mediation Skills | **2016** |
| Northwestern University | Certificate in Mediation Skills | **2014** |

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- "Human Rights that Should be Automatically Guaranteed", **CarmeNGO**, Volume 19 (published internationally in Italian, Spanish, and English), 2026

- "A Labyrinth in Arthur's Court", **Trial Journal**, Volume 8, No. 2, 2006

EXPERIENCE

Melton Mediation Centers — Rock Island, Dixon and Joliet, Illinois

**President/Neutral** — **2026-Present**

Management of a multi-faceted alternative dispute resolution with offices across North-Central Illinois. Personal practice is focused on acting as a neutral third party to assist in the resolution of litigated civil disputes.

Melton Law Firm, LLC — Rock Falls, Illinois

**President** — **2017-Present**

Exclusive plaintiff's trial practice, focused on wrongful death, catastrophic injury and medical malpractice litigation in North-Central Illinois and Eastern Iowa

Ludens Potter & Melton — Rock Island and Morrison, Illinois

**Managing Partner** — **1998-2017**

Management of a general practice law firm that included both transactional and litigation attorneys. Personal practice focused on business litigation, general litigation, insurance defense, and plaintiff's litigation.

Herbolsheimer Lannon Henson Duncan & Reagan — LaSalle, Illinois

**Associate Attorney** — **1993-1998**

Litigation practice focused on defending corporate and insurance interests in product liability cases, construction accidents, motor vehicle collisions and insurance coverage disputes

Rushing & Guice — Biloxi, Mississippi

**Associate Attorney** — **1992-1993**

Entry level litigation position, focused on commercial litigation and collections

## EDUCATION

Washington and Lee University School of Law
**Juris Doctor** **1992**
Awards:

- Champion, Negotiation Competition
- Champion, Client Counseling Competition
- Finalist, Mock-Trial Competition

Northern Illinois University
**Bachelor of Science** **1988**
Major: Marketing Minor:
Philosophy Awards:

- College of Business Academic Achievement Award
- Marketing Honor Society