

# Curriculum Vitae – Expert Witness

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Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles  
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David W. Slayton, Clerk of Court

**Name:** Melanie Khoury Sawaya

**Professional Title:** Makeup and Special Effects Artist / Skincare Consultant

**Areas of Expertise:** Cosmetic and Special-Effects Makeup; Facial Aesthetics; Analysis of Soft-Tissue Appearance and Coloration; Differentiating Cosmetic Procedural Effects from Injury or Trauma

**Business Address:** Sierra Madre, California

**Email / Phone:** Khourymel@gmail.com | (626) 379-2698

**Instagram:** @mella.la.bella

## 1. Professional Summary

Experienced makeup, special-effects, and skincare professional with more than 10 years in the beauty and aesthetics field. Has personally observed and provided cosmetic and skin-care services to over 500 clients following injectable lip and facial procedures, gaining extensive knowledge of filler-related bruising, swelling, and tissue changes within the first 48 hours post-treatment.

Combines broad cosmetic-industry experience with advanced special-effects (SFX) training, including the creation and analysis of simulated trauma. This unique background enables accurate differentiation between cosmetic enhancements, procedure-related effects, and blunt-force injuries in photographs or live subjects.

Qualified under California Evidence Code § 720 through specialized knowledge, professional training, and extensive experience.

## 2. Education and Training

- Ruby Make-Up Academy — Professional High-Fashion Beauty Program (Certification Granted May 8, 2018)
- Dream Body & Beauty Institute — Stretch Mark and Scar Treatment Training (Certificate of Completion, February 6, 2023)
- Bella Spa Academy — Hyaluron Pen Procedure Certification (February 6, 2021)
- Ruby Make-Up Academy — Professional Microblading Certification (August 4, 2020)
- Bella Spa Academy — Eyebrow Lamination Master Class (August 4, 2020)

## 3. Professional Experience

**Lead Artist & Skin Consultant** — Melanie Khoury Studio, Arcadia, CA (2017 – Present)

- Provides post-injection skincare consultations and camouflage guidance.
- Observed and documented healing progression of post-injection bruising and swelling in 500+ patients.

- Advises clients and clinicians on cosmetic camouflage techniques for procedural bruising and color correction.

#### **Freelance Special-Effects Makeup Artist (2016 – Present)**

- Designs and applies simulated injury, bruising, and trauma effects for film, television, and photography.
- Expert in color theory, texture replication, and lighting analysis to accurately mimic real-world skin reactions.
- Provides technical consultation for production teams on realistic injury simulation and continuity accuracy.

#### **4. Expertise Relevant to Legal Proceedings**

- Differentiation of cosmetic procedural bruising/swelling from traumatic injury.
- Photographic analysis for coloration, shadowing, and textural patterns.
- Interpretation of typical post-injection appearance and healing timelines.
- Identification of surface characteristics inconsistent with subdermal or blunt-force trauma.
- Clear, layperson-friendly testimony and reporting for visual evidence review.

#### **5. Awards and Recognition**

- First Place – Fantasy Make-Up Competition, Ruby Make-Up Academy

#### **6. Professional Affiliations**

- Member, California Makeup & Skincare Professionals Association (CMSPA)
- Participant, International Beauty & SFX Trade Show
- Member, Society of Cosmetic Practitioners and Aesthetic Specialists

#### **7. Availability for Legal Consultation**

Available for written declarations, photographic and visual analysis, and live expert testimony regarding the visual differentiation between cosmetic procedural effects and traumatic injuries to facial tissue.