

Curriculum Vitae – Expert Witness

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

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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.