

## Jennifer Mesa

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### EDUCATION

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**University of Pennsylvania** | Philadelphia, PA Aug 2022 - May 2026  
*Candidate for Bachelor of Arts*  
Majors in Political Science and American History; Minor in Philosophy

**Doral College** | Miami, FL Aug 2018 - May 2022  
*Associate of Arts, Summa Cum Laude*  
Concurrently completed while in high school

### AWARDS & RESEARCH

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**Awards:** Fellow for the Harvard Future Leaders in Law 2025-26 cohort

**Research:** Conducted research on racialized violations of educational freedom in Cuba. The paper was published in the 2025 International Conference of Quantitative Ethnography, an academic journal.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Penn Residential Services**, *Residential Services Operations Student Manager* Sep 2022 - Present  
• Work part-time hours while in school; Manage front desk operations at a campus residence hall serving 50+ students daily; issue temporary ID cards and guest passes  
• Supervise a team of 23 student workers; create and maintain semesterly shift schedules, coordinate coverage adjustments, and uphold proper workplace standards

**Penn Development Research Initiative**, *Research Analyst* Jun 2025 - Aug 2025  
• Conducted research on International Organization for Migration studies of migrant returnees and deportees in Latin America, gathering and synthesizing information to contribute to a UN-commissioned compendium on reintegration and migration programs  
• Independently taught myself to code in R to contribute to a World Bank land gap analysis for Latin American and Caribbean nations, evaluating climate commitments, land-use requirements, and barriers to investment in climate and agricultural projects

**Annenberg School of Communications**, *Teaching Assistant* Aug 2024 - Dec 2024  
• Worked with Professor David Eisenhower to prepare course materials and structure office hours  
• Provided individualized support to 35 students completing research papers on presidential speeches; advised on sourcing archival materials and refining project scopes

**Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office**, *Victim & Witness Services Intern* Jun 2024 - Aug 2024  
• Assisted hundreds of victims and witnesses of violent crimes, particularly in sexual assault and human trafficking cases, connecting them to services and guiding them through court proceedings  
• Facilitated communication and evidence collection through Spanish-English interpretation; analyzed and translated recorded prison calls, directly informing prosecutorial strategy

- Observed and documented jury selection, arraignments, and sentencing hearings, contributing to case development and ensuring victim advocacy

**Dean Street Law Firm, Legal Assistant** Jan 2024 - May 2024

- Supported a corporate attorney on mergers & acquisitions and general business law matters by drafting and reviewing asset purchase agreements, non-compete clauses, and letters of intent
- Conducted legal research through LexisNexis on statutory compliance, contract interpretation, and relevant case precedents; synthesized findings to support negotiation strategy.

**Raul De La Heria and Associates Law Firm, Paralegal** Jun 2023 - Aug 2023

- Managed over 100 workers' compensation cases in pre-trial litigation; primarily represented immigrant clients facing language barriers and challenges due to legal status
- Drafted complaints, motions, demand letters, and Independent Medical Examination packages; completed discovery and obtained critical medical records to support client claims
- Participated in depositions and mediations, contributing to strategy and witness questioning

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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**The Pennsylvania Post, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder** Dec 2023 - Present

- Co-founded an independent student-run newspaper, established to promote free speech in campus journalism; took the regular weekly viewership from about 100 to 1,500
- Manage all editorial operations for a 30+ person staff across all sections; edit 7+ articles weekly and publish all content on the website. Initiate and execute monthly printing and distribution

**Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association, VP of External Affairs** Jan 2023 - Present

- Co-led semesterly fundraisers, raising hundreds of dollars in donations to provide medicine for sick children in Cuba
- Spearheaded a \$40,000 fundraising campaign for a cancer patient in Cuba by partnering with local businesses, non-profits, and radio networks; secured funding for lifesaving treatment

**Penn Model Congress, Conference and Committee Chair** Jan 2023 - May 2025

- Assist annually in organizing Model Congress conferences for high school students.
- Chair committee sessions by facilitating debate and managing parliamentary procedure.

**Forum for Legislative Action, Federal Branch Committee Member** Sep 2023 - May 2025

- Wrote and lobbied two original federal policy proposals: one improving medical waste disposal standards (2024) and another enhancing data collection on homelessness (2025)
- Presented the bills on Capitol Hill to members of Congress to achieve bipartisan support

## SKILLS & INTERESTS

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**Languages:** Spanish (Native/Fluent), English (Native/Fluent)

**Community Involvement:** Volunteer weekly at a local church's children's ministry

**Interests:** Latin dancing (salsa and bachata), Christianity, weightlifting, tailoring clothes, rescuing birds