

## THOMAS A. MESEREAU, JR.

Attorney Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr. specializes in criminal defense (state and federal court) and civil trials. He is a partner with the firm of Mesereau & Yu, LLP in Los Angeles. Tom was educated at *Harvard University, The London School of Economics and The University of California's Hastings College of Law*. A noted trial lawyer, Tom Mesereau once won eight acquittals and two hung juries in a one-year period. He has obtained not guilty verdicts in cases ranging from the death penalty to business fraud.

The year of 2005 was a particularly memorable year for **Attorney Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr.** On June 13, 2005, Mr. Mesereau heard a jury in Santa Maria, California repeat "Not Guilty" 14 times (10 felonies and 4 lesser-included misdemeanors) in the case of the *People of the State of California vs. Michael Joe Jackson*. This capped a 5-month trial, which received more media coverage around the world than the O.J. Simpson and Scott Peterson trials combined.

Following the Jackson acquittals, interview requests were endless. Tom appeared on the **Larry King Live** and **Jay Leno** shows to explain why Michael Jackson was acquitted. **Barbara Walters** named him one of her "*10 Most Fascinating People*", due to his victory in the Jackson case and because of his presence and pro bono work in the African-American community. **GQ Magazine** named him one of the "*Top Men of the Year*" because of his "determination" against numerous obstacles in the Jackson case.

Mr. Mesereau has been selected by his peers as one of "The Best Lawyers in America." During a three-year period, the **Los Angeles Daily Journal** named Tom Mesereau one of the "*100 Most Influential Lawyers*" in the State of California. The **Criminal Courts Bar Association** of Los Angeles and **The Century City Bar Association**, Los Angeles have honored Mr. Mesereau with their "*Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year*" awards. The Criminal Courts Bar Association of Los Angeles has also presented Mr. Mesereau with the "*Morton Herbert Service Award*" for "his generous and noble service in furtherance of social justice." **California Lawyer Magazine** has also awarded Tom its highest award for excellence in criminal law. Tom's alma mater, the *University of California's Hastings College of Law*, has named him the "*Alumnus of the Year*".

Tom Mesereau has received the "*President's Award*", along with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, from the **U.S. Dream Academy** in Washington D.C., for his work with inner city children whose parents are incarcerated. Mr. Mesereau actively sponsors and participates in various free legal clinics throughout Los Angeles. He participates in the free legal clinic at **Crenshaw United Methodist Church** in Los Angeles, which is sponsored by **Save Our Sons**, an organization founded by African American women whose sons are incarcerated. **Brookins AME Church**, Los Angeles, has named its new free legal clinic for the poor after Mr. Mesereau. Since 1999, Mr. Mesereau has traveled each year to Alabama to defend a death penalty trial pro-bono. He has also represented an indigent defendant, pro-bono, in a death penalty case in Mississippi.

Mr. Mesereau has received a "*Community Service Award*" from the **Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa**, the Mayor of Los Angeles, for his years of contributions to the City. Mayor

Villaraigosa specifically noted Mr. Mesereau's willingness to represent unpopular defendants and his commitment to the poor citizens of Los Angeles. This ceremony occurred at the **Brookins Community African Methodist Episcopal Church** in Los Angeles, where Mr. Mesereau also received a "Service Award" from **Dr. Frederick Ormonde Murph**, Senior Minister, for his achievements in civil rights. When he received these awards, the County of Los Angeles formally announced the celebration of "Attorney Thomas Mesereau Day."

Mr. Mesereau was previously awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" from Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke due to his dedicated service to the citizens of Los Angeles County. Mr. Mesereau has received an award from the Reverend Cecil Murray, formerly Senior Minister of the **First African Methodist Episcopal Church**, for the many years of volunteer time he devoted to the church's free legal clinic. Mr. Mesereau also has received the "Sarah Allen Women's Missionary Society of First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles Award" for his contributions to the African-American and other minority communities.

Tom has received a formal commendation from the **Compton Seventh-Day Adventist Church** for the time and effort he has given to pro-bono legal services in Los Angeles. Mr. Mesereau has received a "Certificate of Appreciation from the African-American Community Empowerment Organization", a Los Angeles-based group devoted to assisting "at-risk" youth and developing their skills and goals. He previously received the "Compton, California School Board President's Award" for "Outstanding Contributions to the Children of the Compton Unified School District." He has also received an award from **The State Bar of California Board of Governors** for providing pro bono legal services to low income Californians. **Collier Image Studios**, Los Angeles, has awarded Mr. Mesereau its annual "Civil Rights Award".

Tom Mesereau serves on the *Advisory Board* of the **Salvation Army of Compton, California**. Mr. Mesereau has received the "Humanitarian Award" from **The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice** (NABCJ), "In Recognition Of Your Ongoing Commitment To Justice for All." Mr. Mesereau has conducted seminars for NABCJ on various aspects of the criminal justice system. He has received the "Annual Service Award" from **n-Action Family Network** for his efforts on behalf of women in recovery from drugs and incarceration. He also serves on the Advisory Board of this civil rights group. Mr. Mesereau regularly marches with the **Mothers of Watts** and their children against gang violence.