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Thomas Mela, managing attorney and director of the Children's Law Support Project, returned to MAC in 2006.

Previously, Thomas had worked at MAC from 1975 until 1987, during which, in 1976, he commenced the 22-year long class action lawsuit against the Boston Public Schools addressing non-compliance with special education law.

In the interim, Thomas had been the general counsel for the Massachusetts Office for Children and the chief attorney for the New England Office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Thomas has also been a staff attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, the co-director of the Boston University Legal Aid Program, and an instructor at Boston College Law School and at Tufts University. He is a graduate of Tufts University and Harvard Law School.

Thomas specializes in special education law and school discipline law.