



FSU LAW

Focus

April 5,
2024

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From the Dean



The Honorable Anuraag "Raag" Singhal talks to FSU Law students over lunch.

On Monday, March 25, FSU Law hosted the Honorable Anuraag "Raag" Singhal, of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, as part of our Jurist in Residence Program. Judge Singhal participated in Professor Wayne Logan's Criminal Procedure: Adjudication class, speaking with students and answering questions, before attending a lunch with student members of several student organizations and law school journals. During the lunch, Judge Singhal spoke about striking a balance between one's personal and professional life and the importance of federal clerkships. In the afternoon, Judge Singhal conducted mock

interviews with several FSU Law students who are interested in federal clerkships before attending a reception with FSU Law faculty members and invited judges.

Judge Singhal was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District in 2019, and he served on the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida from 2011 to 2019. Before his service on the bench, Judge Singhal worked at a civil litigation firm, served as an assistant state attorney in Broward County, and was a successful criminal defense trial lawyer for eighteen years, during which time he handled over two hundred jury trials. Many thanks to our Career Services Office for organizing Judge Singhal's visit—it was our pleasure to welcome him to the law school and to be able to provide students with opportunities to interact with a federal judge.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Stoops Center Welcomes New Executive Director

We are delighted to welcome Joshua Coco, who joined FSU College of Law as executive director of the **Stoops Center for Law and Business** in March 2024. In this role, Coco leads a team dedicated to promoting the law school's offerings in business law and compliance, including new executive education courses and certifications for business professionals. Coco also is responsible for connecting the law school community with the business community, thereby advancing FSU Law's reputation and visibility in the field of business law, while creating new experiences for law students interested in business law. Coco previously served as chief executive manager of Coco Solutions—an enrollment management consulting company—and an educational consultant/client solutions executive at AT&T. From 2018-2023, he was responsible for, among other things, all admission and enrollment operations as assistant dean of the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science. Coco also served as the chief enrollment officer, responsible for a comprehensive enrollment management plan, as vice chancellor and dean of enrollment management at Louisiana State University – Eunice. Coco holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Lamar University and an M.Ed. in student development and leadership from Angelo State University.



“I’m thrilled to be joining FSU’s Stoops Center for Law and Business as executive director,” Coco said. “It’s an exciting opportunity to build bridges between law, technology, and business education. I can’t wait to work with our team to create dynamic programs that not only boost the College of Law’s profile, but also provide valuable learning experiences for professionals in today’s fast-paced compliance world.”

Alum Profile: Steven W. Ferrell ('13)

Steven W. Ferrell is an interlocutory attorney with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. In this role, Ferrell reviews and decides non-dispositive motions in inter partes trademark disputes and works with panels of judges to assist in the final disposition of such disputes. Previously, he was a trademark examining attorney and acting senior attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Ferrell’s experience also includes serving as a commercial litigation associate at Burr & Forman LLP in Orlando.



“As an interlocutory attorney with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, I thrive on the dynamic intersection of law and innovation, navigating complex legal terrain to safeguard intellectual property rights. Each case presents a unique challenge, allowing me to employ legal expertise to ensure fair resolution and uphold the integrity of the USPTO trademark register.”

Student Profile: 3L Benoit Vilceus

Desired Practice Location: West Palm Beach,

Orlando, or Tallahassee

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Field of Law Sought: Criminal defense or removal defense (immigration)

Benoit Vilceus is a third-year J.D. student from Pétion-Ville, Haiti. He earned a B.S. in law from Université Jean Price Mars in Haiti, and a B.A. in liberal studies from Barry University in Miami. Vilceus also earned a post-baccalaureate certificate in legal studies from Barry University, and he holds an LL.M. in American law for foreign lawyers from FSU College of Law. This semester,



Vilceus is completing an externship with the Second Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender in Tallahassee, where he conducts legal research and analysis of statutes, regulations, and case law and drafts motions and legal memoranda. Vilceus also was a law clerk for the public defender’s office during the summer before his 3L year. During the fall 2023 semester, Vilceus was a teaching assistant for the College of Law’s LL.M. program. His work included facilitating small group discussions, answering students’ questions, and providing guidance on legal writing concepts and techniques. As a 2L, Vilceus was a student advocate with the College of Law’s Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic. During his time there, he conducted client intake interviews, drafted an affidavit, and prepared and filed various documents for clients, including a Temporary Protected Status Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal.

At FSU Law, Vilceus has continued to volunteer with the Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic, and he was a member of the Journal of Transnational Law & Policy as a 2L. He is fluent in French and Creole and is a board member for the Community Empowerment Network, based in Port Au Prince, Haiti. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Vilceus after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn profile](#) or email him at bv21d@fsu.edu.

“As a first-generation law student with a non-traditional path, my journey is rooted in resilience and unwavering determination. I am passionately committed to utilizing my legal education as a catalyst for transformative change in criminal defense and immigration law.”



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