

Jacob Covas, Esq.

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EDUCATION

St. Thomas University College of Law

Miami, FL

Juris Doctor

May 2024

Certificate in Doctrinal and Skills Training on Migration and Human Trafficking

Activities: Student Bar Association, 2L Honor Council Representative, Vice-President. Jewish Law Student Association, Committee Chair for fundraising and Social Outreach, President.

Florida International University

Miami, FL

Bachelor of Arts in History; Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies Dec. 2020

Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies **Honors:** Deans List Fall 2020.

Activities: Hillel at FIU, Executive Board member and social media chair. Alpha Epsilon Pi at FIU, President. Shalom FIU, Executive Board member and social media chair.

LICENSE

Florida Bar, Member in Good Standing

Admitted—September 2024

Bar#: 1058016

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of the Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Miami, FL

Assistant Public Defender, Early Representation Unit

Mar. 2026 – Present

Managed a high intensity caseload of Felony cases from the date of arrest to the point the State filed Charges. Interviewed clients, family members, witnesses, and alleged victims to evaluate and build cases in the early stages of litigation. Collected evidence and coordinated with a team of investigators to gather information prior to discovery being shared by the State. Wrote and argued countless motions to modify bond, motions for release, motions for return of property, motions for modification of a Stay Away Order, amongst many other motions. Communicated with opposing counsel, prepared mitigation packages, and negotiated plea offers on behalf of clients. Worked with clients to connect them with social programs and attempted to address underlying issues that may lead to recidivism prior to release. Communicated with the Felony Screening Unit of the State Attorney's Office to identify prima facie issues in the State's case and negotiated for the State to issue a No Action Memorandum. Completed training in felony sentencing and scoring criminal defendants. Completed Brady and Giglio training required by the Florida Bar to represent clients in felony cases.

Law Offices of the Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Miami, FL

Assistant Public Defender, County Court Division

Aug. 2024 – Mar. 2026

Managed a high intensity County Court caseload ranging from fifty to over two-hundred and fifty cases at any given

time. Represented clients at all stages of their case from pre-filing to verdict or final disposition. Argued countless substantive motions and cross examined witnesses during motion hearings. Prepared for and completed depositions of police officers and expert witnesses. Represented clients during bond hearings and at first appearance. Assisted in finding placement for clients in community programs for substance dependency and mental health issues. Coordinated with forensic psychologists to conduct evaluations of clients. Negotiated with the prosecution for plea offers on behalf of clients. Represented clients at Trial as a First and Second Chair Attorney.

Law Office of the Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Miami, FL

Legal Intern

May 2023 – Aug. 2023

Assisted the supervising attorneys with the facilitation of daily calendar. Met with clients and performed client interviews in anticipation of future legal proceedings. Engaged in office-wide trainings for trial skills and trial advocacy. Visited detained clients and assisted supervising attorney with client-counsel relations. Assisted with preparing cases for trial and trial planning. Performed research for cases and helped create motions.

St. Thomas University, John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy

Miami, FL

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug. 2022 – May 2023

Performed research regarding global human trafficking networks. Identified root causes of human trafficking and collected data on government policies that are effective at combating human trafficking. Prepared presentations for academic seminars, and U.S. State department sponsored diplomatic seminars. Edited and reviewed documents pertaining to international law and policy, for State representatives to International bodies. Initiated grass roots investigations responding to tips linking organizations and business entities to unlawful labor practices around the world.

The Honorable Judge Joseph Perkins, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida

Miami, FL

Judicial Intern

Aug. 2022 – Nov. 2022

Observed daily calendar within the criminal division. Performed administrative tasks as needed throughout the course of the day. Produced memorandums of law regarding legal theory and practical application of the law. Assisted the division's Bailiff and Judicial Assistant with tasks. Reviewed the documents, filings, and evidence submitted by parties in cases. Participated in a corresponding class component, which provided further training on ethics, professionalism, confidentiality, and additional legal skills.

TRIAL EXPERIENCE

State of Florida v. F.R.

- Charge: Battery.
- Jury Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed Motions in Limine, Strike conference, Opening statements, Cross examination of Alleged Victim, First and Second Judgment of Acquittal, Direct Examination of the Defendnt, and Sentencing Hearing.
- Verdict: Guilty (Affirmed on Appeal)

State of Florida v. H. N.

- Charge: Assault on a Person 65 years or older (Bound Down to County Court from Aggravated Assault on an Elderly Person with a Deadly Weapon).
- Jury Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed Motions in Limine, Strike Conference, Opening Statements, Cross examination of lead officer, Cross examination of Civilian witness, First and Second Judgment of Acquittal, and Sentencing Hearing.
- Verdict: Guilty (Affirmed on Appeal)

State of Florida v. T. M.

- Charges: Improper Exhibition of a Firearm, and Disorderly Conduct.
- Jury Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed the Strike Conference
- Disposition: Busted Jury Panel, Case later dismissed.

State of Florida v. A.D.

- Charge: Smoking Cannabis or Hemp in Public.
- Bench Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed cross examination of lead officer.
- Verdict: Not Guilty (First Judgment of Acquittal)

State of Florida v. Y.R.

- Charges: Boating Under the Influence, and Refusal to Submit Breath to Intoxilyzer Inspection.
- Jury Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed Strike Conference, Opening Statements, Cross examination of Lead DUI Investigator, and Sentencing Hearing.
- Verdict: Guilty on All Counts (No Appeal).

State of Florida v. A.D.

- Charge: Resisting an Officer Without Violence.
- Jury Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed Strike conference, Opening statements, First and Second Judgment of Acquittal.
- Verdict: Not Guilty

State of Florida v. W.B.

- Charge: Resisting an Officer Without Violence.
- Jury Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed Strike Conference, Opening Statements, Cross examination of Backup Officer, and First and Second Judgment of Acquittal.
- Verdict: Not Guilty

State of Florida v. J.W.L.

- Charges: Animal Cruelty and Resisting an Officer Without Violence.
- Jury Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed Strike Conference, Opening statements, Cross Examination of Civilian Witness, First and Second Judgment of Acquittal, Sentencing Hearing/Negotiated Plea for other open cases.
- Verdict: Guilty on All Counts (Pending Appeal).

State of Florida v. E.J.

- Charge: Driving without a Valid License.
- Bench Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed Cross examination of lead officer, Direct examination of Defendant, Closing arguments.
- Verdict: Guilty (Pending Appeal).

State of Florida v. A.J.

- Charge: Battery
- Jury Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed Voir Dire, Strike Conference, Cross examination of the Alleged Victim, Direct examination of Defendant, and closing arguments.
- Verdict: Not Guilty

State of Florida v. S.D.

- Charge: Battery
- Jury Trial
- Role: Second Chair
- Completed Strike conference, Opening Statements, First and Second Judgment of acquittal.
- Verdict: Not Guilty

State of Florida v. C.M.

- Charges: Resisting an Officer Without Violence, Reckless Driving, Highway Racing, Driving without a Valid License.
- Jury Trial
- Role: First Chair
- Completed Voir dire, strike conference, Cross examination of the lead investigator, Closing Arguments.
- Verdict:
 - Resisting an Officer Without Violence: Guilty, Pending Appeal
 - Reckless Driving: Not Guilty
 - Highway Racing: Not Guilty
 - Driving without a Valid License: Guilty, Defense conceded guilt during closing

SKILLS

Legal Practice	Criminal defense, felony early representation, client interviewing, case evaluation, motion practice, bond advocacy, depositions, witness examination, plea negotiations, trial preparation, courtroom advocacy, trial advocacy.
Technology	Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), Defender Data.
Language	Spanish, conversational proficiency.