



# O. Emil Ovbiagele, JD, MBA

Attorney| Entrepreneur| Professor

Emil Ovbiagele, a Nigerian-American immigrant, is a distinguished attorney and entrepreneur. Graduating at 19, becoming an attorney at 22, and founding a law firm by 24, Emil's journey is one of ambition and achievement. His credentials include a BA, MBA, and JD from Marquette University, where he also serves as a part-time Adjunct Associate Professor of Law. Emil's legal expertise has been honed in state and federal courts, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals. His leadership roles include serving as one of the youngest leaders of the Milwaukee Bar Association and former President of the Wisconsin State Bar Young Lawyer Division. Emil's contributions to the legal profession have earned him accolades such as the Wisconsin Law Journal's "Up and Coming Lawyer" and the American Bar Association's "On the Rise-Top 40 Young Lawyers" Award. Emil also shares his expertise as a speaker and co-host of the Wisconsin State Bar podcast, "Bottom Up." Beyond law, Emil is the Founder of the Horatio Group, a real estate firm employing over 25 professionals. Emil's commitment to his community is demonstrated by his service on various boards and fellowships with the Wisconsin Foundation and the American Bar Association. Emil Ovbiagele is a trailblazer, educator, entrepreneur, and community advocate, making a significant impact in his profession and community.



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www.ovblaw.com



linkedin.com/in/emilovbiagele

## EDUCATION

### JD

Marquette University  
Law School

08/2011 - 05/2014

### MBA

Marquette University  
Graduate School of  
Business

06/2014 - 05/2016

### BA (International Affairs)

Marquette University

08/2008 - 08/2011

## HONOR AWARDS

"Rising Star" (2017 - 2022)

Wisconsin Super Lawyers®

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Managing Partner/Founder

OVBLAW & CONSULTING, S.C.

06/2016 - Present

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A Milwaukee law firm dedicated to serving the business and civil litigation needs of closely held businesses, entrepreneurs, and individuals.

- Litigates commercial, real estate, and partnership disputes.
- Counsels closely-held businesses on a range of business law matters including incorporation, compliance with securities and employment law, and business/real estate acquisitions.
- Litigates civil rights and employment-related claims before administrative, state and federal forums (discrimination, conviction/arrest based discrimination, wage and hour violations and FMLA claims).
- Serves as outside general counsel for successful closely-held businesses and high growth tech startups.

### Adjunct Associate Professor

Marquette University Law School

01/2018 - Present

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Teaches trial advocacy courses
- Coached/Mentored the law school's trial competition teams.

### Chief Strategy Officer/Founder

Horatio Real Estate Group

2017 - Present

Wisconsin

A Wisconsin real estate company specializing in the acquisition and operationalization of senior housing developments and other commercial enterprises.

### Of-Counsel

JB Entreprises, S.C.

12/2015 - 06/2016

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Represented clients in complex business litigation cases involving partnership disputes, and non-competes.
- Advised several closely-held companies on a myriad of business and compliance issues including: employment policies, contract administration, corporate governance, etc.

## HONOR AWARDS

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"Up and Coming Lawyers."  
(2017)

*Wisconsin Law Journal*

On The Rise - Top 40 Young  
Lawyers Award (2022)

*American Bar Association*

- ▣ The ABA's "On the Rise - Top 40 Young Lawyers" Award program provides national recognition of ABA Young Lawyers Division members who exemplify a broad range of high achievement, innovation, vision, leadership, and service to the profession and their communities.

## CERTIFICATES

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Real Estate Broker  
(2017 - Present)

Real Estate Investment  
Modeling-Cornell University  
(2023)

Litigation Certificate (2014)

*Marquette University Law School*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Associate Attorney

Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP

07/2015 - 12/2015

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*National Firm with an array of practice areas*

- ▣ Conducted and defend depositions in complex construction and products liability cases.
- ▣ Drafted and responded to various successful dispositive Motions in construction defect, products liability, and nuisance cases.
- ▣ Drafted and responded to discovery requests including but not limited to interrogatories, request for productions, and request for admissions.

### Associate Attorney

Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer, S.C.

05/2014 - 07/2015

*Hartford, Wisconsin*

*National insurance, subrogation, and civil litigation firm*

- ▣ Represented ERISA and group health plans in state and federal courts in health care reimbursement and subrogation disputes.
- ▣ Researched and drafted several successful dispositive Motions in ERISA and group health plan reimbursement cases, bad-faith insurance lawsuits and commercial contract disputes across the country.
- ▣ Co-authored a United States Supreme Court Amicus Brief.

### Student Prosecutor

Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

08/2013 - 05/2014

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

- ▣ Tried four cases before a jury, from voir dire to closing statements, under the Wisconsin Student Practice Rule with minimal supervision.
- ▣ Appeared on behalf of the County and State for pleas, sentencing, pre-trial, scheduling, and motion hearings under the Wisconsin Student Practice Rule.
- ▣ Participated in charging conferences, plea negotiations, and drafted criminal complaints and motion briefs.

### Summer Associate

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, S.C.

06/2013 - 08/2013

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*A Large Wisconsin Law firm with a national presence*

- ▣ Researched and wrote legal analysis memoranda relating to a myriad of commercial business law issues.

### Student Judicial Intern

U.S. District Court- Hon. Charles Clervert

08/2012 - 12/2012

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.*

- ▣ Conducted legal research on a wide array of civil and criminal matters, prepared bench memoranda, and drafted legal analysis for motion opinions.

### Student Judicial Intern

Wisconsin Supreme Court- Late Justice Patrick Crooks

05/2012 - 08/2012

*Madison, Wisconsin*

*Wisconsin's highest state court*

- ▣ Assisted Late Justice Patrick Crooks prepare for oral arguments by drafting pre-argument bench memoranda.

## ORGANIZATIONS

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Milwaukee Bar Association (07/2019 - Present)

*President*

Wisconsin Law Foundation (2022 - Present)

*Fellow*

## ORGANIZATIONS

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American Bar Foundation (2022 - Present)

*Fellow*

State Bar of Wisconsin (2022 - 2023)

*Board of Governors*

Milwaukee Excellence Charter School (2020 - 2022)

State Bar of Wisconsin- Young Lawyer Division (2021 - 2022)

*President*

Wisconsin Voices (2017 - 2019)

*Board of Directors*

ABA- Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Division (2019)

*Diversity Fellowship Recipient*

Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers

*Member*

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

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Bottom Up Podcast-Co-Host (2022 - Present)

*State Bar of Wisconsin*

- ▣ A State Bar of Wisconsin produced podcast that deals which explores the intersection of law practice and life.

Considerations in Attorney Compensation in 2022 CLE- Speaker/Presenter (2022)

*Wisconsin State Bar Solo/Small Firm Conference*

Final Thought: New Lawyers: A Generation that Might Get Left Behind the Screen- Author (2021)

*Wisconsin Lawyer, vol. 94, no. 10, 2021.*

CBD Business Litigation: Five Trends to Watch in 2021 CLE- Speaker/Presenter (2021)

*State Bar of Wisconsin, PINNACLE®*

Hemp & CBD Oil in Wisconsin: The New Green Gold CLE- Speaker/Presenter (2019)

*State Bar of Wisconsin, PINNACLE®*

The Rise of CBD in Wisconsin: Pitfalls and Considerations CLE- Speaker/Presenter (2019)

*Milwaukee Bar Association*

Wisconsin's B Corps- Blending Profit and Purpose CLE-Speaker/Presenter (2017)

*State Bar of Wisconsin, PINNACLE®*

## INTERESTS

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Die-hard Arsenal FC Fan

Poetry

Traveling

Policy Enthusiast