Perspectives on Minority Business Development
Tuesday, April 20, 4:00-8:45 p.m. EDT

Session 8: Perspectives of Minority Business Entrepreneurs
8:05 - 8:45 p.m. EDT

Discussion Leader: Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar and Clinical Professor of Law, and Director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, Penn State Law in University Park

Presenters: Francisco R. Angones, Partner at Angones McClure & Garcia and former President of the Florida Bar Association; Dr. Chitra Dorai, Founder and CEO of Amicus Brain Innovations, Inc.; Marcia J. Griffin, Co-founder and CEO of HomeFree USA; and James M. Griffin, Co-founder and COO of HomeFree USA

Event Co-Chairs:

Samuel C. Thompson Jr.
Professor and Arthur Weiss Distinguished Faculty Scholar
at Penn State Law

Sabrina Conyers
Partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

pennstatelaw.psu.edu/events/mbd-perspectives
Francisco R. Angones, partner at Angones McClure & Garcia and former president of the Florida Bar Association

Francisco R. Angones, past President of The Florida Bar, handles personal injury, medical malpractice, products liability and other insurance defense cases in addition to commercial litigation. He was born in Havana, Cuba in 1950 and is fully bilingual. Mr. Angones received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Miami and has an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell®. Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1976, Mr. Angones is also admitted to the Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th and 11th Circuits and the United States Supreme Court. Long active in professional and civic organizations, Mr. Angones was the youngest attorney ever to assume the presidency of the Cuban-American Bar Association and the first Hispanic to be elected President of the Dade County Bar Association. He has been a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Victoria Hospital, and on the Metro-Dade Community Relations Board. Mr. Angones is a member of the Dade and Broward County Bar Associations, the American Bar Association, the Cuban-American Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, the Spellman-Hoeveler American Inn of Court, the American Board of Trial Advocates and the International Association of Defense Counsel. Mr. Angones is a Supreme Court Certified Mediator.

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar and Clinical Professor of Law, and Director of the Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Penn State Law in University Park

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia is Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar; and Clinical Professor of Law at Penn State Law in University Park. Her research focuses on the role of prosecutorial discretion in immigration law and the intersections of race,
national security and immigration. She has published more than thirty law review articles, book chapters and essays on immigration law. Her work has been published in Duke Law Journal, Emory Law Journal, Texas Law Review, Washington and Lee Law Review, Harvard Latino Law Review, Administrative Law Review, and Columbia Journal of Race and Law. Wadhia has published two books with New York University Press: Beyond Deportation: The Role of Prosecutorial Discretion in Immigration Cases (2015) and Banned: Immigration Enforcement in the Time of Trump (2019). Wadhia is the author of Immigration and Nationality Law: Problems and Solutions, with Steve Yale-Loehr and Lenni Benson, published by Carolina Academic Press in 2019. Wadhia is the inaugural Editor-In-Chief of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Law Journal, a partnership between AILA and Fastcase. In 2019, she served as the Enlund Scholar In Residence at DePaul University School of Law. Her scholarship has been cited in numerous law journals and by federal appellate court judges, including Judge Richard Posner (article on deferred action), Judge Paul J. Watford (article on the role of discretion in speed deportation), and Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw (“See generally” citation to book Beyond Deportation). In 2019, Wadhia testified before Congress on the historical role of prosecutorial discretion and deferred action in immigration cases. She regularly authors opinion pieces on a range of immigration topics, and has published such pieces in the Los Angeles Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Hill, blog for the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS Blog), blog of the Harvard Law Review, American Constitution Society, American Immigration Council, Yale Journal on Regulation’s Notice & Comment, and Immigration Law Professors Blog. She has also served as an expert witness, lead author or co-counsel in connection with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the asylum ban, the travel ban, and prosecutorial discretion more generally. At Penn State Law, Professor Wadhia teaches doctrinal courses in immigration and asylum and refugee law. She is also the founder/director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic (CIRC), where she supervises students in three areas: 1) community outreach; 2) legal support in individual immigration cases; and 3) policy work for institutional clients. CIRC has earned a national reputation for its high-quality work product and impact in the community. 2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of CIRC. CIRC was honored with the Excellence in Legal Advocacy Award in 2017 by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and named legal organization of the year in 2019 by the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center. Wadhia has received many local and national awards for her scholarship, teaching, and service, including Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in 2003, leadership awards by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Office of the Inspector General in 2008, 2017 Honoree by the National Immigration Project, Arnold Addison Award for Town and Gown Relations by the Borough of State College in 2019, and the 2019 Elmer Friend Excellence in Teaching Award by the American Immigration Lawyers Association. In 2020, Wadhia won the university-wide Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award and was named a Fastcase 50 Awardee, which honors 50 of "the law’s smartest, most courageous innovators, techie visionaries, & leaders." Prior to joining Penn State, Professor Wadhia was deputy director for legal affairs at the National Immigration Forum in Washington, D.C. She has also been an associate with Maggio Kattar, P.C. in Washington, D.C., where she handled asylum, deportation, family, and employment-based immigration benefits matters.
James M. Griffin, Co-founder and COO of HomeFree USA

James (Jim) M. Griffin
Jim’s career spans more than 45 years in mortgage banking with a focus on affordable housing and direct experience in mortgage lending, management of specialized loan programs, inner city real estate development, housing consulting, and the provision of transitional housing and support for homeless families. He has worked across the U.S. and abroad serving as a financial advisor and public housing policy consultant to HUD, U.S.A.I.D., World Bank, and numerous city, state and foreign governments.

Marcia J. Griffin, Co-founder and CEO of HomeFree USA

Marcia Griffin
Marcia is on a mission to strengthen people, elevate partners, and enhance communities across America. As founder and president of HomeFree-USA, Marcia has helped thousands to achieve and retain the dream of homeownership and greater wealth. HomeFree-USA enjoys a remarkable 0% foreclosure rate among families that have participated in the organization’s pre- and post-purchase guidance programs. Serving as a bridge between financial institutions and the community, Marcia addresses the needs of homebuyers and homeowners with targeted education, distinctive marketing strategies and lender. A recognized homeownership expert and frequent featured guest speaker, she is a member of the Freddie Mac Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, she leads the Fannie Mae Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the Ocwen Financial Community Advisory Council, America’s Homeowner Alliance, Wells Fargo Housing Foundation Steering Committee and the Affordable Housing Advisory Councils of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, and the Mortgage Bankers Association. Marcia is a tireless advocate for nonprofit homeownership organizations. Under her leadership, her organization funds and strengthens the capacity of 53 other nonprofits that represent the interests of 4.5 million diverse families across the country.