

LANGUAGES

- English · native
- Spanish · native
- French · fluent
- Portuguese · fluent
- Italian · conversant

TECH SNAPSHOT

16 SaaS web apps designed and shipped

#1 on Google's rankings, twice, with his own SEO tactics (RAC ESSI and The O.R.T.A. Academy)

9 AI Agents operate the Company's business affairs based on a novel automation system that he designed and honed

4 live sites on their own domains: the website and three web apps

TOOLKIT

- Claude Code/Cowork
- ChatGPT Work / Codex
- Google Gemini AI Suite
- Base44
- Stripe
- Postmark
- Cloudflare
- ElevenLabs
- HeyGen
- ManyChat
- SEO

Rafael A. Castro, III

J.D., LL.M.

Founder, President, and Technical Director in the U.S.

O.R.T.A. Professional Soccer Academy Corp. · The O.R.T.A. Academy

A multilingual entrepreneur and AI-systems builder whose work rests on three disciplines: soccer, law and technology. As a former NCAA Division I player with 16+ years of experience coaching women's soccer, he knows how aspiring professionals are developed. As an international corporate and finance lawyer, he brings judgment few entrepreneurs have: for instance, he knows how billion-dollar transactions are structured and how disputes are avoided and resolved. As a builder, he designs automated AI systems, creates brand recognition through SEO and AEO marketing, and builds, curates and ships the SaaS software and websites that help The O.R.T.A. Academy place elite players in women's professional soccer clubs in Europe.

EDUCATION

LL.M., Transnational Business Practice — 1994
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

J.D. — 1993
Stetson University College of Law

Diplôme Supérieur d'Études Françaises — 1990
Université de Bourgogne

B.A., Political Science — 1989
Stetson University

ENTREPRENEUR & BUILDER

O.R.T.A. Professional Soccer Academy Corp. — 2022 – Present
Founder, President, and Technical Director in the U.S.

- Built The O.R.T.A. Academy's original website and all of its marketing materials himself, before any AI assistance, and took it to the **#1 Google result** for "skip college to play professional women's soccer in Europe."
- Designed and shipped **16 SaaS web apps** on Base44 with Claude Code, led by The O.R.T.A. App Suite (page 2).

RAC Elite Soccer Services, Inc. ("RAC ESSI") — 2017 – 2023
Founder (2017) · Technical Director (2018 – 2023) · women's soccer agent

Created the agency's website and all of its marketing materials, with his own SEO know-how; RAC ESSI was the **#1-ranked agency on Google** while he managed it. Its Instagram page remains.

THE NEW O.R.T.A. ACADEMY WEBSITE

ortaprosocceracademy.com · It carries forward the search his original site took to #1. Designed and curated page by page: **The Pathway** from an ECNL roster to a professional contract in Europe; **Proof**, a trainee's path to the UEFA Champions League; **player testimonials**; a free **Masterclass** series in his own voice; **Training & Combines**; and **Par Excellence**, the O.R.T.A. Podcast.

AI-BUSINESS AUTOMATION

Designed, built, and is fine-tuning, a novel, proprietary methodology for small-business automation, powered by Claude Code, which currently operates The O.R.T.A. Academy's business.

SOCCER SNAPSHOT

87/87 players placed in seven years (founder's personal record)

22 European countries where he has built club relationships, particularly in Spain

57-1-3 girls' 3v3 coaching record, 2010 – 2016

10+ 3v3 tournament wins, including 3 straight Jefferson Opens (2013 – 15)

AS A PLAYER



Youth player



NCAA Division I

NCAA Division I, 1984 – 1990: University of South Florida, UNLV and Stetson University. Captain of the Key Biscayne Gunners, 1982 Florida State Champions; Florida State Team and Region III pool player. He trained with NASL teams, and chose law over a professional career.

LICENSE

U.S. Soccer E License. His record and his professional players' testimonials speak to his coaching know-how and expertise.

THE O.R.T.A. APP SUITE

FEATURE APP

The Clinical Eye · prosoccer-clinical-eye.com

Designed, built, and curated – page-by-page – an SaaS web app that evaluates players based on six domains (technical, tactical, physical, soccer-fitness, positional, and psychological), each one further classified by sub-metrics scored to the decimal against European-academy benchmarks, with a global weighted rating, a radar-chart diagnostic, clinical notes, and a developmental blueprint. **Every report is personally scored and evaluated.**

O.R.T.A. SAAS WEB APP MARKETING FUNNELS

Pro Pathway Check propathwaycheck.com · A free readiness assessment that emails each family a personal report.

O.R.T.A. Pro-Soccer Combine ortaprocombine.com · Registration and payments for the Combine and camps; film made available to European clubs in Coach Rafa's network.

Player Portal & CRM *internal* · Recruitment and player management, with scanned-document (OCR) intake.

Maestro Soccer I.Q. *in development* · An AI-driven soccer-I.Q. instructor and 30-day course, taught by Coach Rafa.

SOCCER: TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & COACH

Technical Director: The O.R.T.A. Academy (U.S.) *2022 – Present* · **RAC ESSI** *2018 – 2023*

- Coached, managed and mentored players who play, or have played, in the first divisions of Europe.
- Organized, directed and coached, as principal coach, private trainings and professional soccer combines.
- Built relationships with general managers and coaches of first- and second-division clubs in 22 European countries, particularly Spain, in person, on two- to three-month trips twice a year.
- Placement record: **87 of 87 players placed in seven years** (the founder's personal record), first through RAC Elite Soccer Services and then through The O.R.T.A. Academy.

Coach and mentor, elite girls' youth soccer — 2009 – 2016

- Every girl he trained and mentored in this program was selected to the Top 18 of her ODP girls' pool. They include his daughter, Sophie Castro, the only player in Virginia selected to the Girls 2004 ODP Top 18 in four consecutive years (2016 – 2019).
- One of the most successful girls' 3v3 coaches in the Mid-Atlantic: **57-1-3** from 2010 to 2016. **Won 10+ 3v3 tournaments**, including 3 consecutive Jefferson Open 3v3 Tournaments (2013 – 15). 3v3 National Championship, Walt Disney World, Florida, U-12: third place, after a 7-8 overtime loss in the semifinal.

TRANSACTION SCALE

$12.5B — Terra Networks' acquisition of Lycos

$1.5B — Jorf Lasfar 1,200 MW power project, Morocco

$900M — Mubadala aircraft-services joint venture, UAE

$868M — Citadel Capital's acquisition of Rally Energy

32 — state and federal appeals in four years as a solo appellate practitioner

RECOGNITION OF PROJECTS

Jorf Lasfar Project
Project of the Year 1998, *Project Finance International*

Ibirité Project
Latin American Deal of the Year 2003, *Project Finance* magazine

BAR STATUS

Since he became an entrepreneur, he is an inactive member of the New York, Florida, and District of Columbia bars and no longer engages in the practice of law.

INTERNATIONAL LIFE

Has lived in London, Barcelona, Paris, São Paulo, and Abu Dhabi while working for top-tier international law firms.

THE LAWYER

A former international corporate, project-finance and appellate lawyer who now builds professional careers in women's soccer. For years he structured and negotiated cross-border energy, infrastructure and telecom transactions for sponsors, lenders and multinationals at Simmons & Simmons, Clifford Chance, Greenberg Traurig and Thelen Reid & Priest, then led a state and federal appellate practice in Florida. He brings that discipline (rigorous diligence, precise drafting, negotiation across languages and cultures) to placing elite female players in Europe.

LEGAL CAREER

Appellate Services Par Excellence, PLLC · *Miami · Principal* — 2009 – 2019
State and federal appeals and pre-trial litigation; corporate and U.S. regulatory (OFAC, FCPA) work. 32 appeals in four years, with oral argument in most.

Simmons & Simmons · *London, Abu Dhabi · Senior Associate, Projects* — 2007 – 2009
Billed 2,400 hours in 2007; highest appraisal and bonus in the Projects Group; promoted and transferred to Abu Dhabi to build the Gulf practice. Developed the firm's U.S. sanctions (OFAC) practice.

R. Castro & Associates, PLLC · *Miami · Principal* — 2002 – 2007
Outside general counsel to three Florida companies; five years of federal litigation, including *SME Racks* in the Eleventh Circuit.

Teledata Informações & Tecnologia S.A. · *São Paulo · In-house Counsel* — 2001

Clifford Chance · *São Paulo · Associate, Projects* — 2001

Greenberg Traurig · *Miami · Senior Associate, International M&A* — 1999 – 2000

Thelen Reid & Priest · *Washington, D.C. · Associate, Project Finance* — 1997 – 1998

Aballí, Milne, Kalil & Garrigó · *Miami · Associate* — 1995 – 1996

Cuatrecasas · *Barcelona · Extern (LL.M. program)* — 1993

SELECTED TRANSACTIONS

As counsel, at the firms shown.

AMERICAS
Telefónica / Terra Networks: **US$12.5 billion** acquisition of Lycos. Led the due-diligence team. *Greenberg Traurig*

UAE
Mubadala: **US$900 million** military-aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul joint venture with a U.S. defense contractor. *Simmons & Simmons*

AMERICAS
Telefónica Internacional: SAM-1 undersea fiber-optic network, a joint venture with Tyco. Drafted the Spanish-language concession and landing agreements. *Greenberg Traurig*

UNITED KINGDOM
Sonatrach: primary and secondary LNG regasification capacity at the Isle of Grain terminal. *Simmons & Simmons*

MOROCCO
CMS Energy: **US$1.5 billion**, 1,200 MW Jorf Lasfar coal-fired plant. Drafted the power purchase agreement and negotiated the coal supply agreement, in French. *Thelen Reid & Priest*

EGYPT · PAKISTAN · CANADA
Citadel Capital: **US$868 million** acquisition of Rally Energy Corp., with acquisition and mezzanine financing. *Simmons & Simmons*

BRAZIL
Petrobras: Cubatão gas-fired cogeneration project, as lead attorney, including the quotaholders' agreement (in Portuguese) and subordinated debt. *Clifford Chance*

COSTA RICA
Inter-American Development Bank and B-loan lenders: Miravalles III geothermal financing, including the *fideicomiso* security structure. *Thelen Reid & Priest*

SELECTED REPORTED APPELLATE DECISIONS

- *SME Racks, Inc. v. Sistemas Mecánicos para Electrónica, S.A.*, 382 F.3d 1097 (11th Cir. 2004). Lead counsel for the appellants; oral argument. Reversed a forum non conveniens dismissal, over a dissent.
- *Diaz & Russell Corp. v. Department of Business & Professional Regulation*, 140 So. 3d 662 (Fla. 3d DCA 2014). Counsel for the appellant; oral argument. One of the very few reversals of the Florida DBPR by the Third District in an administrative appeal.

Appendix A (all 41 transactions and advisory matters, and the full appellate record) is available on request.