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**P**rofessor Haikal recently published her paper, “*Shadows of Prejudice: The History of the Right to Counsel and Strickland’s Pursuit of Justice Amidst Forgotten Witnesses and Disregarded Evidence*,” as the lead article with the Ohio Northern University | Claude W. Pettit College of Law. This paper examines the systemic failures of the U.S. criminal justice system caused by ineffective legal representation, particularly in capital cases. It highlights the urgent need for reform to uphold constitutional guarantees. *The Strickland v. Washington* standard is critiqued for imposing an unreasonably high burden on defendants, allowing substandard defense practices to persist. Through historical analysis, key legal decisions, and case studies such as *Wiggins v. Smith*, *Andrus v. Texas*, and *Syed v. State*, the paper illustrates how inadequate legal representation results in overlooked investigations, ignored evidence, and wrongful convictions. These failures disproportionately affect indigent defendants and undermine the justice system’s integrity. The paper underscores the necessity of meaningful changes to ensure effective counsel and prevent the far-reaching consequences of inadequate defense.