

YOUR CRIMINAL DEFENSE NAVIGATOR



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Tearing down
obstacles,
finding a
way for
you.

Page 2 - TRUST

When confronted with criminal allegations, finding the right legal team can be the difference between a positive, life-changing outcome and life-long regret. Find legal representation you trust, a team that will continuously be "on point" for you and have your best interests in mind.

Page 3 - GOALS

You need a clear idea of where you want to go in order for you to get anywhere. By setting goals, your efforts will be focused and effective. You should expect to discuss your case-related goals and your general career, educational and familial goals with your lawyer. Strategic planning is essential for your journey.

Page 4 - MITIGATION

Your life story cannot be reduced to when you became involved with the law. Who you are and what you stand for must resonate in court. Ensure your legal team is passionate about narrating your whole life story.

Page 5 - PLEADINGS

A solid legal foundation is essential to making the resolution of your case as quick as possible. A legal team that understands how to apply the Constitution and state and local laws to the allegations against you is vital to reaching the best possible outcome.

Page 6 - DISCOVERY

The right to know what evidence is claimed against you is enshrined in our Constitution. This is a crucial stage of the criminal pre-trial process and must be rigorously scrutinized for you to have peace of mind and succeed.

Page 7 - INTERVIEWS

Witness interviews conducted by police must be examined carefully. Your legal team should have the experience to analyze those interviews, as well as find and interview witnesses themselves. Your legal team must carefully investigate the particulars of your situation and gather evidence to counteract the state's claims.

Page 8 - ADVOCACY

Your advocacy starts immediately. It continues without interruption throughout every phone call, email, meeting, and court appearance. Advocacy comes from commitment – you should be able to constantly see and feel this commitment.

YOU
TOOK
YOUR
FIRST
STEP.
NOW
WHAT?





TRUST

Understand that hiring an attorney is your absolute, Constitutional right. Retaining experienced counsel is what informed, intelligent individuals do. Engaging a law firm ensures you are prepared, protected, and defended through a complicated legal process. It has nothing to do with guilt. Take the time to research and understand your legal rights to confidently decide whether to hire a criminal defense attorney or legal team.

Keep in mind the following points during your search...

YOU MAY BE ANXIOUS about starting your case or nervous about the court system, but do not choose a law firm based simply on their availability.

YOU MUST FEEL CONFIDENT from your very first interaction that your legal representation is assertive, obsessive with details and confidentiality, compassionate, and authentically willing to fight for you.

THERE IS REPRESENTATION out there that matches your values, beliefs, and goals.

DO NOT ONLY LOOK AT WEBSITES and read reviews but also speak with the team you would be working with before deciding on a path forward.

THE LAW IS A POWERFUL ELEMENT in our society that can profoundly shape your future. The right law firm will understand every detail of the laws that apply to you and your matter and know every possible way to harness that power for your benefit.

GOALS

You must identify key goals to develop strategies and meet those objectives.

Understanding how best to meet your goals will help you make better decisions in challenging circumstances.

When you think about goals, it is crucial to be more specific than, "I don't want a criminal record."

The following goals are ones we frequently hear during our representation:

- Prevent a criminal record;
- Maintain employment;
- Continue to be present for your family and their goals;
- Be able to advance in your work and career;
- Maintain professional licensing or certification;
- Continue your education;
- Be able to vote;
- Be able to possess or carry a firearm;
- Avoid jail;
- Avoid GPS monitoring;
- Avoid probation;
- Maintain your driving privilege;
- Avoid increased insurance costs;
- Maintain government security clearance;
- Maintain residency or visa status.





MITIGATION

You have a story – your history, character, and upbringing. Your story is also about your expectations of the future. You must collaborate with your law firm to detail every aspect of your story or narrative to describe the full measure of who you really are.

Most people summoned to criminal court are good people in a bad situation that resulted from regrettable associations, decisions, or circumstances. They are often measured by prosecutors in the black and white of a police report and treated as statistics. But that is not their story.

We focus on crafting a compelling narrative that helps clients create the most positive possible impact in their cases. The goal is to present a complete portrait of your life and show how your situation does not define you. This isn't a time to be humble, but to tell us, and therefore the court, who you really are.

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|------------------------------|--|--|
| School Transcripts | Volunteer Activities & Charity Donations | Letters of Appreciation |
| Diplomas/GEDs | Church Involvement | Organization Involvement |
| Awards/Recognition | Military Service | List of Goals |
| Employee of The Month Awards | Successful Rehab Programs | List of Proud Acts or Instances |
| Certificates of Achievement | Community Involvement | Trade/Employment Licenses/Certifications |

PLEADINGS

The Law of Connecticut criminal procedure outlines the rules for what motions can be filed under what circumstances and when.

Categorically, motions and pleadings are generally directed toward the following subjects:

- Bail modification motions requesting a reduction of bond or removal of certain conditions of release that a court may impose;
- Ensuring that all reports, test results, forensic evidence, photos, videos, or any other evidence are provided to the defense. This also includes what we call “Brady Material,” which is evidence that would tend to demonstrate the non-guilt of a defendant;
- Asserting a violation of a Constitutional right that impacts the state’s ability to prosecute. This area is most commonly pursued through Motions to Suppress Evidence and Motions to Dismiss;
- Pleadings directed toward what evidence might be permitted at trial and excluding evidence that may be unfairly harmful when compared to its value to a jury, or even excluding testimony from witnesses such as police officers or the state’s supposed experts.



DISCOVERY

As the defense, you have a right to know what evidence the prosecutors say they have against you. You have a right to not only police reports but body camera video, audio recordings, and almost any material that police relied upon for their reports.

Evidence can be multilayered and expansive. It requires the knowledge and intellect of an experienced legal team to evaluate, control, and even tear down where possible.

Evidence might include sworn statements, recorded interviews, physical evidence from the scene of an alleged crime, and documents or items related to your case. The source of evidence may be law enforcement, private individuals, confidential informants, government agencies, corporations, internet providers, cell phone providers, and social media.

Demanding discovery is your right. *Brady v. Maryland* stands for the rule of law that you have a right to any material that might support your innocence. Sometimes, searching for evidence can lead to the discovery that it has been withheld, destroyed, or not preserved when it should have been preserved. This failure to maintain evidence or to disclose it can lead to dramatic reversals in the government's ability to prosecute.

Analysis, critical thinking, and experience are imperative for discovery.

Only some of this information will be necessary or applicable to every case. Still, the government's failure to provide the requested material may provide additional defense opportunities, including, but not limited to, the exclusion of evidence or dismissal of charges.

INTERVIEWS

The defense is entitled to interview witnesses during the pre-trial phase of their case. Witnesses sometimes must be found after unexpected disclosures during a trial.

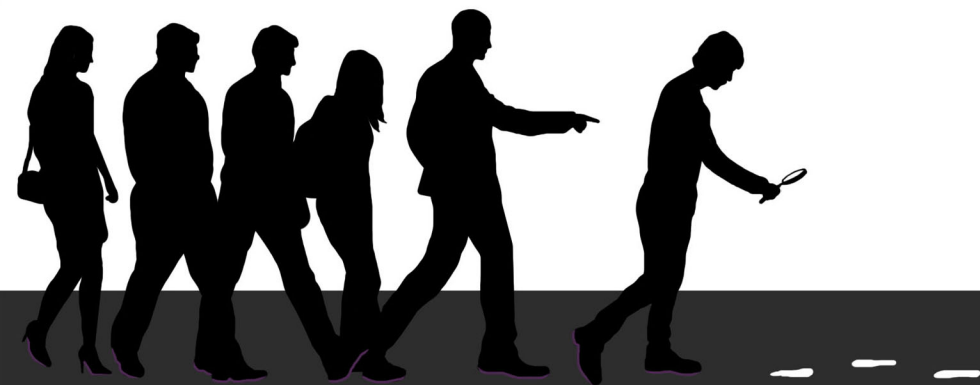
The Maddox Law Firm has done precisely that, successfully finding an individual described by a witness during testimony in order to contradict that testimony and prove it false.

There is a misconception amongst inexperienced lawyers about whether they can interview witnesses who allegedly support the state's allegations. There is a reluctance to find and interview witnesses, especially when they are expected to be "state's witnesses." But, until a witness is officially disclosed as a state's witness, there is no prohibition against attempting to interview them, with or without the state's consent. There is, of course, best practice when interviewing witnesses, including conducting them jointly with a private investigator.

Once your law firm has conducted a thorough investigation and witness interviews before trial, they can share their thoughts on how those witnesses are likely to testify. Your attorneys can also explain what may have been omitted from witness statements, including unintentional or intentional omissions.

A police report only summarizes what a law enforcement official alleges. Sometimes words are highly accurate, but sometimes they fall short of the truth. An interview can provide valuable insight into how best to proceed with your case and how to refute the allegations against you.

There is subtlety and art to speaking with people and asking questions. Sometimes sitting with a potential witness, asking the right questions, and observing their mannerisms and body language can result in a decision not to take a sworn statement. That decision is just as valuable as obtaining a sworn statement. We learn what a potential witness has to say, and we to evaluate their credibility.



ADVOCACY

Every criminal case is different, whether the allegations are misdemeanors or felonies. Connecticut cases require personal appearances and can take months or, sometimes, years to resolve. The hallmark of a truly experienced and dedicated legal team is tenacious advocacy from beginning to end.

ARRAIGNMENT OR INITIAL APPEARANCE

Connecticut arrests are made through what is called an “Information.” Arrests are either “on-site” or through a warrant. At an arraignment, if an individual is in custody, the defense attorney and the prosecutor argue bond, and the judge decides. You have an absolute right to bond in Connecticut. The judge may also release you on a promise to appear or a conditional promise to appear.

PRE-TRIAL

The pre-trial process is exactly as it sounds; the time before trial, during which multiple court appearances may occur. The court appearances aim to ensure discovery compliance. They also involve discussion between the defense and the prosecution about the relative strengths and weaknesses of the case against you. Your story must be told and told repeatedly throughout. When we explain who you are and what you stand for, it distinguishes you from the allegations against you. The pre-trial process also includes the disclosure of potential expert witnesses and any mandated disclosure of analyses or forensic reports.

NEGOTIATION

Negotiation typically begins once both sides agree that all evidence has been made available and any background information has been produced about you that may mitigate the allegations. This is commonly referred to as “plea bargaining.” Plea bargaining is an essential element of criminal procedure, but it is only a fair “bargain” if your legal team knows how to assess what is fair and what is truly in your best interests.

TRIAL

Sometimes, the effort to reach a plea bargain, and any other alternative to concluding a criminal prosecution, has been exhausted. That means that you may decide to proceed to trial. You have a right to a trial and require the state to prove every element of its allegations against you. You have a right to confront witnesses by having your lawyer cross-examine those witnesses in a public courtroom on record. You have the further right to present evidence on your behalf and produce witnesses who may testify and contradict the state’s allegations or who may testify to your character and reputation. You have all these rights and the right to counsel of your choice, counsel with the knowledge, experience, and tenacity to defend and advocate for you.

Remember that preparation is the most essential element of every defense phase. Preparation means the keenest attention to detail and all considerations. We ensure that every bit of information necessary for an intelligent decision has been gathered and calculated.

