

DEFENSE LAWYER CONFIDENTIAL

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by
Alexander Y. Benikov



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Foreword

I suspect that many believe that lawyers are simply made—a product of privilege whereupon completion of their first four years of partying through undergraduate school, their parents help finance the future lawyers' way through law school, and when they get their law degrees, the recent graduates decide which six-figure jobs they would like to accept.

I suspect that many believe that when newly minted lawyers accept this job, the new lawyers will have fancy offices and clients will just come to them or their firms with their cases and their money. Certainly, this may happen on occasion, but experience tells me that this is not always the case. In my mind, those of us who have lived a life outside of being a lawyer have the most insight and empathy toward our clients. Alex Benikov is a prime example of just such a lawyer.

As you read *Defense Lawyer Confidential*, you will come to understand that Alex is a lawyer who came from humble beginnings, who worked hard to not only get into law school, but also to become an actual practicing lawyer without having anything handed to him. In this book, you will learn about his background and his maturation as a

lawyer through stories about his career that are both whimsical and thought provoking.

Furthermore, unlike what you see on television and in the movies, Alex's stories are real. They are not sensationalized to titillate the audience. Instead, these stories are compelling because they offer insight into the thought process of a criminal defense lawyer and those they represent.

I suspect that when you read these stories, you will come to view criminal defense lawyers and the people they defend differently. As Alex details in the upcoming pages, we are not the unethical individuals who are often portrayed on television or in the movies, but rather, criminal defense lawyers are law enforcement officers who enforce the Constitution.

We are the wall that stands between the power of the government and the liberty of each and every citizen in this great country. In this regard, I am proud to call Alex a fellow officer, and it is my hope that you enjoy reading his book as much as I did.

L. Kirk Nurmi, Defense Lawyer
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