

DEFENSE LAWYER CONFIDENTIAL

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by
Alexander Y. Benikov



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Table of Contents

Chapter One—The Beginning	1
Introduction	2
My Journey	6
My Law School Experience	8
How Fledgling Defense Lawyers Become Real Defense Lawyers	18
What Defense Lawyers (Actually) Do	24
Being a Defense Lawyer Is Not for Everyone	27
Chapter Two—Types of Work for Defense Lawyers	33
Private Practice	33
Public Defender	36
Contract Lawyer	38
Judge Pro-Tem	42
Teaching	44
Chapter Three—The Clients	47
First Timers	47
Frequent Fliers	49
Clients with Mental Health Issues	53
Angry Clients	59
Overly Emotional/Train Wreck Clients	61
Con Artists/Manipulative Clients	63
The Constitutionalists	63

Undocumented Immigrants	68
The Gamblers	72
Entitled Clients	77
Poor and Homeless Clients	79
Chapter Four—Crimes	91
Felony versus Misdemeanor Crimes	91
Driving under the Influence (DUI)	93
Drugs	99
Prostitution	108
Domestic Violence Offenses	112
Assault	119
Weapons	120
Scams	122
Grand Theft Auto	126
Bad Driving	128
Chapter Five—Defense Lawyers	133
A Day in the Life	133
Get Used to Waiting	135
Interpersonal Skills	136
The Ability to Manage Time, Schedules, and Judges	138
Buddy System Beware	139
Advertising, Fees and Getting Paid	140
Rates and Fees	142
Competing for Clients, Advertising	145
Different Types of Defense Lawyers	147
True Believers	147

Lazy or Lost Lawyers	149
Arrogant, Self-Absorbed Defense Lawyers	153
Lawyers with Substance Abuse Issues	156
Dishonest Defense Lawyers	158
Hateful Defense Lawyers	161
Frustrating Days	164
Good Days	166
Chapter Six—The People in the System	171
Judges	171
Prosecutors	178
Professional and Respectful Prosecutors—	
The Best of the Best	179
Lazy Prosecutors	180
True Believer Prosecutors	181
Dishonest Prosecutors	183
Court Staff	184
Experts	186
Private Investigators	189
Juries	191
The Police	195
Chapter Seven—The Technical Side of Being	
a Defense Lawyer	201
Evidence	201
Mentorship and Experience	204
Plea Bargaining	207
Trials	209
Appeals	213

Chapter Eight—Advice from Those	
Who Have Been There	215
This too Shall Pass	216
The Obstacle Is the Path	218
Develop Relationships	219
Take Care: Protect Yourself and Your License	222
The Job Will Not Save You	225
Plan Ahead	227
Chapter Nine—Making a Difference	231
Only Criminals Need Defense Lawyers, Right?	231
How Can You Defend Those People?	233
Be an Agent of Change	235
Chapter Ten—Conclusions	237
The Winds of Change	237

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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