

Doug Richards:

My name is Doug Richards. I'm a criminal defense attorney in Denver, Colorado.

I handle all cases from simple drug possession, DUI cases, all the way up to first degree murder. There are a number of crimes that are both state crimes and federal crimes. A lot of drug cases are like that. For example, a state drug case, you might have maybe a little bag of marijuana or a little bag of cocaine versus a federal drug case where you might have a hundred kilograms of cocaine and a thousand kilograms of marijuana.

So typically a federal case is going to be a much larger case than a state case because there's a much larger investigation that goes into it.

Federal case is prosecuted by the United States government. Typically, on a federal case, you'll have one or more federal agencies such as FBI, DEA, ICE, ATF, all working together to make a larger case against a particular criminal defendant.

I have a lot of experience with drug crimes. I've handled them as both a defense attorney now and as prosecutor, when I was both in state and federal level. When I was a federal prosecutor, I handled a very large drug case involving over a thousand kilograms of marijuana and over a hundred kilograms of cocaine.

As a state prosecutor, I handled hundreds of low level drug cases involving hand-to-hand transactions, drug seized out of vehicles. In fact, a lot of times that would give me an edge over somebody else because I'm more comfortable handling larger cases, can think of different things to file on a particular case, that another attorney might not think about.

Also in federal cases, it's very typical that you're going to have a lot of co-defense on a particular case and sometimes co-defendants want to testify against each other and that's why it's important that you get an attorney quickly, who knows how to navigate the system so that you can be first in line, if that's what's going to happen.