

Doug Richards:

I'm here to fight to change my client's bad luck because not all the time is what's happening to them fair. Sometimes they're being pushed around through the system. Sometimes they're being bullied by police, by prosecutors, by judges. And that's the one thing that keeps me up at night. That's the one thing that makes my blood boil.

When I left law school, I went right into the DA's office and I immediately thought, "I'm wearing the white hat and I'm helping the world, and I'm doing all these great things." And I felt the same way when I went to the US Attorney's Office. When I changed sides and I started representing people one at a time, I finally was able to see the law for what it is. It's really about luck. I have a lot of clients that have bad luck and they end up getting charged when they shouldn't have been charged. So many times people come to me and they're just so upset about, not just what's happening to them, but the unfairness of what's happening to them, just how they are being treated.

Now that I've been doing this for almost 20 years, you realize that you really didn't know a lot way back when. You thought you did, but you didn't. Being a prosecutor, you're in court so much that you see almost all the different scenarios. That becomes particularly useful as a defense attorney because you start to be able to kind of predict what direction things are going to go.

What's made me feel really good about getting up and doing this job every day is the people that I work around. There's really smart lawyers that we're working with. And the one thing that all of our lawyers do, and I think it's part of Chris and I leading by example, is really thinking about what kind of a person would you want to be representing you if you were in this position. And that's how we show up every day for our clients, is as if it was us or as if it was our best friend or a family member in this position.

So when I have a prosecutor who's really smug and just thinks that they've got your client bent over a barrel, and when I have a judge who is just ignoring clear law, it inspires me to just work harder. When your hard work results in somebody getting their life back, there is no greater feeling.