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John R. Teakell

Experience and Results Count in Criminal Defense

It helps to have been on the other side of the courtroom aisle. Just ask John Teakell, a former prosecutor turned defense attorney. "I understand how the process works, and I have a feel for what cases the prosecutor wants to bring and which targets he wants to indict," says Teakell. "When you have that insight into how an investigation unfolds, it helps you get in ahead of the curve before there is an indictment to try to derail an investigation or at least mitigate a client's exposure."

The Dallas-based attorney hails from Fort Worth, and attended law school at night while working for a large commercial bank. Teakell spent over 12 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office as a federal prosecutor, most of which was in the Northern District of Texas where he was designated as a bank fraud prosecutor.

In addition to fraud cases, Teakell prosecuted all types of federal crimes in the Northern District of Texas. He also prosecuted extraordinarily large drug trafficking and money laundering cases as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Puerto Rico, as well as several federal death penalty cases.

Teakell began his career as an Assistant District Attorney and he also worked as a trial attorney for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

It's a resume that uniquely qualifies him to understand the criminal justice labyrinth of issues in complex white-collar criminal matters, government corruption cases, drug trafficking and money laundering, tax evasion allegations, and a variety of others. "I have handled most federal criminal issues that might arise," Teakell says. "I can use my prosecution experience to give the client a leg up, understanding all the avenues that could be available in a case."

Teakell has been named a *Texas SuperLawyer* in white-collar criminal defense for several years, which represents the top 5 percent of attorneys in his area of practice in the state. The American Trial Lawyers Association has also named him to *Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Texas*.

Teakell's inside knowledge of the system makes him a sought-after defense counsel commentator for media outlets. He has appeared on CNN, Court TV, NBC Nightly News, as well as many Dallas/Fort Worth network affiliates. Teakell has been quoted in such publications as *Time* magazine, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and the *Dallas Business Journal*.

Teakell says his ability to evaluate the facts of a case through a prosecutor's eye can be pivotal to a winning defense strategy. As he puts it: "I try to understand if government investigators have looked at all the potential evidence that's out there. Often that kind of analysis can lead to closing the investigation without charges, or knowing what to emphasize for trial. The investigation stage can be crucial, because the longer an investigation continues, the more man-hours the agents and prosecutors have invested. This often means they expect to have an indictment if so much time has been expended."

Teakell believes that criminal defense is an area where the clients need to understand that an investigation or case can be a lengthy process. "At the end of the process though, a case that has been worked by the defense may result in no indictment, a dismissal, diversion or some other alternative to prosecution. But ultimately I can only be satisfied when I know that I got the best result under the circumstances for the client."



John Teakell handles a wide range of criminal defense matters, some of which include:

White-Collar Crimes

- bank fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud
- health care fraud
- money laundering
- procurement fraud
- tax evasion
- securities fraud
- email fraud
- telemarketing fraud
- unauthorized computer access
- extortion
- credit card abuse
- bribery
- mortgage fraud
- unauthorized use of identity information

Computer / On-Line Offenses

- on-line solicitation
- illegal Internet images
- exceeding computer access authority
- identity theft

Drug Trafficking and Possession

- prescription fraud
- manufacturing substances
- Internet pharmacy violations
- distribution of controlled substances
- possession or possession with intent to distribute
- conspiracy
- career criminal enterprises

Other Cases

- public corruption
- illegal alien trafficking
- murder
- firearms violations

John R. Teakell
 Criminal Defense Attorney