

At Blumenthal Law Offices our experienced, litigation-focused attorneys handle a broad range of criminal cases. We pursue the best possible outcome for every client, whether that means preventing the DA from filing charges, negotiating a favorable plea bargain, or asserting and protecting the client's constitutional rights through a jury trial. Here are some examples of the types of outcomes that our efforts have secured for past clients.

HOMICIDE

People v. Brian A.

Brian was a young man with hopes of becoming a police officer like his father. At about 19, though, he began a serious relationship with a 15-year-old girl. Brian's girlfriend manipulated him through false claims of health issues, pregnancies, and rival boyfriends. When these ploys did not work, she began to claim that her father was molesting her as a way to convince Brian to take her out of the home. Afraid of exposing his illegal relationship by reporting the abuse to the police, Brian felt that he had no option but to take the matter into his own hands. Brian and his girlfriend faked a burglary at her apartment and Brian killed her father with dozens of stabs with an icepick. At jury trial, we convinced a majority of the jury that Brian was Not Guilty of the charges, but they ultimately deadlocked and a mistrial was declared. The District Attorney appealed certain issues in the case all the way up to the California Supreme Court. Attorney Virginia M. Blumenthal argued on behalf of Brian at the oral argument before the Supreme Court and won, creating new law that is beneficial for criminal defendants in the State of California. After the Court's decision, a plea bargain was reached in which Brian was released after just a few months. He had been facing a possible sentence of Life Without Parole. (Tried by Attorneys Virginia M. Blumenthal and Jeff Moore. Appellate work by Attorneys Virginia M. Blumenthal and Brent Romney.)

People v. Julie K.

Julie was a young mother who made a little money on the side by watching her friend's toddler during the workday. One day Julie found the child unresponsive in her crib and called 911. The baby was taken to a local hospital and then to Loma Linda Children's Hospital, where she passed away. The Loma Linda doctors determined that the cause of death was abusive head trauma and investigators identified Julie as a suspect. Julie was arrested after an interview in which she admitted to dropping the child to the floor in frustration while changing her diaper. Julie was charged with Murder and Child Abuse Causing Death, both of which carry a mandatory life sentence. We presented a defense focused on the concept that Julie's actions did not cause the injuries, but simply aggravated a previous head injury which had been suffered in an accidental fall. The jury found Julie Not Guilty of Murder and Felony Child Abuse. While she was convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter, she was released from custody immediately.

People v. Alberto R.

Alberto was a gang member with a history of violence. One day, after consuming a large amount of methamphetamine, Alberto was driving around the Inland Empire armed with a handgun and paranoid delusions. While stopped at a stoplight next to a car with two innocent

men inside, Alberto found himself believing that the men were part of a rival gang and intended to kill him. He acted first. Shooting directly into their vehicle, Alberto killed the driver and severely wounded the passenger before driving away and going home. Alberto was charged with capital murder and the District Attorney sought the death penalty. At trial we presented a defense centered on his meth-fueled delusions which gave rise to a false belief in the need for self-defense. The jury found Alberto guilty of second-degree murder, which took the death penalty off the table.

People v. Robert M.

Robert was a young man with a learning disability and a love for dancing. He joined a local “dance crew,” which was not affiliated with any criminal street gang. Unbeknownst to him, a Crip set in the area began to absorb local tagging and dance crews, ultimately including his own. Local law enforcement now considered all of these smaller crews to be part of the larger gang. Seeking to get out of this situation, Robert asked to be disassociated from his dance crew but was told that he now needed to be “jumped out.” Robert agreed. A time and place was set for Robert to be jumped out of the gang and a large crowd assembled to watch the beating. As two men began to punch Robert, shots rang out from the crowd. When the dust settled, two men were dead and the Riverside District Attorney had orchestrated the arrest and prosecution of everyone present at the scene for the murders. The DA refused to see that Robert was trying to avoid being a gang member and had nothing to do with the shooting. Facing the possibility of a life sentence before he was even an adult, Robert opted for a jury trial on the charges. We showed the jury that the investigation was tainted by bias from the start, and that the prosecution’s theory of murder against Robert was absurd. The jury agreed with us and Robert was found Not Guilty of all charges. (Tried by Attorney Virginia M. Blumenthal.)

People v. Greg M.

Greg was a retiree, driving to his morning coffee at a local donut shop in San Bernardino. He was driving due east and prepared to make a left turn into the business’ parking lot. With the rising sun directly in his eyes, Greg stopped at the intersection and used his visor to block the glare and make sure he was clear to make the turn. Unfortunately, there was an oncoming motorcyclist that Greg hadn’t seen. The biker collided into the front quarter panel of Greg’s truck and died at the scene. Greg was cooperative with the investigation and was charged with negligent vehicular manslaughter. At trial we were able to show that this was a tragic accident rather than a negligent act on Greg’s part and he was found Not Guilty of the charge. (Tried by Attorney Jeff Moore.)

People v. Leonard W.

In a very complex “cold” case, Leonard was accused of the murder of a neighbor which occurred almost 25 years ago. At jury trial, our aggressive questioning exposed a pattern of prosecutorial misconduct which led to the removal of the prosecutor from the case and her ultimate disbarment. (Tried by Attorneys Virginia M. Blumenthal and Jeff Moore.)

People v. Jeff B.

Jeff is a repeat customer. While Jeff was originally charged with murder, our investigation and advocacy led to a negotiated plea bargain for kidnapping, assault, and criminal threats. Instead of life in state prison, Jeff was out of custody in less than 10 years. Years later, when found with a stolen car, Jeff again sought our help. We were again able to show the prosecutor that the investigation into Jeff's case was incomplete and biased against him based upon his past troubles. The felony possession of stolen property case, which exposed him to many more years in prison, was resolved for a misdemeanor plea to disturbing the peace.