

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.

WHITE COLLAR CRIME

People v. Bernard M.

Bernard was charged with felony Workers' Compensation fraud after he filed a claim for a workplace injury. While working at an auto dealership, Bernard strained his back while shifting car parts around on the job. Bernard refused to take any deal on the case, as he knew that he had done nothing wrong. We rejected all offers and presented Bernard's case at a jury trial, securing a Not Guilty verdict on all charges. (Tried by Attorneys Virginia M. Blumenthal and Heather Green.)

People v. Jesse C.

After a years-long investigation into Jesse's landscaping business, the Riverside District Attorney arrested Jesse and his son for millions of dollars in alleged Workers' Compensation fraud. While we were able to convince the prosecution to dismiss the charges against Jesse's son, we defended Jesse at a jury trial on seven felony charges. Among other things, the District Attorney alleged that they had hidden their extensive tree trimming operation from the State Compensation Insurance Fund for years in order to keep their Workers' Comp premiums artificially low. At the trial we were able to call the SCIF team that came out to film a safety video for the company ... focusing on their tree trimming operations. While the jury hung on issues unrelated to guilt, we were able to resolve the case for a misdemeanor plea bargain and avoid for the client the time and money investment of a lengthy re-trial. (Tried by Attorneys Virginia M. Blumenthal and Jeff Moore.)

People v. Ernest E.

Ernest was a successful businessman who, with his partners, helped lead a local municipality to a period of unparalleled growth and success. The City's tactics caused concern with other local entities that felt entitled to some of the monies which were raised and used by the City to build out its infrastructure. Federal investigators found no wrongdoing, but the City lost a \$40 million civil suit which was brought by a competing entity. Looking for someone to blame for this loss, the District Attorney filed a prosecution against Ernest, his partners, and several of the other members of the city government that had brought about the local prosperity. While the case was quite defensible and poorly investigated, the defendants were facing a protracted, draining criminal prosecution and an equally daunting civil lawsuit. If they did lose, they faced a long prison sentence and bankruptcy. Working closely with the other defense teams and the civil representation, we were able to secure a joint resolution of the civil and criminal actions. Rather than serve a prison sentence for multiple felonies and a \$40 million restitution bill, Ernest pled guilty to one reducible felony, was given house arrest and probation, and paid a relatively small restitution amount, putting these cases behind him.

People v. Donna M.

Donna was a nurse who worked her way up to the administration of a large public hospital facility. She consistently brought the facility through the fiscal year overperforming and under budget. Her success was due in part to the efforts of Daniel A., a physician/administrator and her co-defendant in the subsequent criminal prosecution. Their success with the hospital drew attention to the fact that Daniel was being paid using what Donna described as “creative accounting” in order to hide the total amount that he was earning from the hospital. After years of litigation, we presented a joint defense with Daniel in front of a jury. Daniel was acquitted of all charges, and Donna was acquitted of all but one charge by the jury. In the appellate process, the Court agreed with our position at trial and ultimately found that Donna was innocent of the charges. (Tried by Attorney Virginia M. Blumenthal.)

People v. TW

TW’s vehicle was damaged after an incident on the freeway. She did not immediately make a claim to her insurance because of the high deductible. Several months later, though, she decided to fix the damage and filed a claim. When the claim was filed, she provided an incorrect date for the actual incident. The claims adjuster located photos which clearly established that the damage occurred prior to the date that she had reported, and she was arrested and charged with felony insurance fraud. While she admitted to the police that she had misled the insurance company, we were able to show to the prosecutor that the deception wasn’t enough to justify a felony conviction. She was charged with an irreducible felony, but the DA was persuaded to accept a plea to a different offense as a misdemeanor with no jail time. The charge was later dismissed.

People v. Alex T.

Alex was a mid-level employee at a local construction company. The owners of the company were allegedly committing millions of dollars worth of fraud by submitting falsified payroll reports to various public agencies. Alex was responsible for creating the false reports and submitting them after swearing that they were true under penalty of perjury. When the alleged fraud was uncovered, Alex and the management of the company were arrested and charged with over 1,000 felony violations, collectively. We worked with the District Attorney and were able to show the prosecutors that Alex had not profited from his actions and had merely been following the directives of his supervisors. All felony charges were dropped against Alex, and his case was resolved for a single misdemeanor plea to being an accessory to a crime.