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“The pursuit of justice is a team effort.”

Newsletter

PRE-TRIAL AND THE NEED FOR A STRONG DEFENSE TEAM

Michael Jackson, Robert Blake, and O.J. Simpson aren't the only people who can benefit from the team approach in a criminal case. You can too and it costs less than you may think. National Legal Professional Associates (NLPA) is a technical legal research and consulting firm, owned by attorneys, and dedicated to the professional mission of providing consultation, research, and related work product to members of the Bar. Although our attorney research department stands ready to assist in all phases of pre-trial management, our expertise extends from pre-trial assistance, to sentencing, appeals and all types of post conviction relief litigation. Our research is prepared by licensed attorneys.

There are two ways that we can help you. (1) If you already have an attorney representing you our

lawyers can work with and assist your attorney. (2) If you don't have an attorney or want a new one, we are happy to refer you to experienced defense attorneys who are happy to accept NLPA's research and consulting assistance and who normally offer significantly reduced fees. In addition to providing research and consulting assistance we also help to keep you and your family up to date on what is happening with your case. With cutting-edge computer research capabilities, an experienced and top quality staff, and more than twenty years' experience, NLPA is well-positioned to provide the type of assistance needed to level the uneven playing field faced by a defendant in a criminal proceeding.

Because we know that communications are so important, your case manager will be available

to you and your family to answer your questions and keep you informed about your case.

Since 1986, NLPA has sought to bring its research resources (including access to all current computer legal databases), drafting skills, and institutional experience (representing over 75 years of practice) to augment the needs and goals of attorneys representing the accused. As expert consultants in the field of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, both for drug and economic type crimes, NLPA has been hired on countless occasions to assist local defense attorneys. NLPA's goal is to help make the adversarial process more balanced and fair. By assisting with current computer research, NLPA is able to fill the void which exists in many solo and small law firms where counsel simply does not have the time nor the resources available to

match the Government in a criminal case, especially a complex one. NLPA's experience with extensive economic loss-related offenses, complex state indictments, and similar cases supports its involvement in augmenting an effective assistance of legal counsel to an accused.

HOW CAN NLPA HELP?

So, how can NLPA assist in pre-trial proceedings? To address the different types of needs of defendants, we have two different levels of assistance: the first is a **Pretrial Information Program**, and the second is our **Full Pre-trial Services**. Both are described below.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that your defense team provides you the skill, ability, timing, and luck to address the challenges being faced. Justice Hand once wrote that justice should not be rationed. However, we believe that it is rationed, but only to those who do not ask for their fair share.

PRETRIAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

Subscribe to this program and receive critical information that could potentially save you years in prison.

We know that the lawyer who is

representing you is extremely busy and sometimes difficult to contact. If you and your family want to have access to information concerning the criminal defense process as well as the latest developments in your case, this level of assistance is exactly what you need.

This level of service is designed to assist you and your family in obtaining information that otherwise may not readily be available to you. When you subscribe to the PIP service NLPA will assist you in gathering information from court records as well as help access important articles about the criminal defense process and provide this information to you and your family. The fee for this level of service is a non-refundable \$1500.00. We can begin your subscription to this service immediately upon payment.

By subscribing to NLPA's Pretrial Information Program (PIP), you and your family will receive information concerning critical topics such as:

- a. We will provide you and your family with information concerning the status of your case as reflected by court records and your docket sheet. This will include following up with the court to provide you with information about what pre-trial motions have been filed, responses filed by the government, and the status of the case in general. This will assist you in communicating with your attorney
- b. We will assist you and your family in getting copies of court documents as well as knowing the process of how to obtain copies of court documents filed by the government and your counsel in the case.
- c. Obtaining important information about how to deal with being in prison.
- d. We can assist in locating witnesses that you want to call in your defense.
- e. We can assist in referring you to investigators to investigate matters that are critical to your defense.
- f. We can assist in referring you to experts to testify on your behalf on key issues such as DNA, finger print analysis, ballistic analysis, drug weight and purity, etc.
- g. We can assist in securing information about prior convictions that might be used against you.
- h. We can assist in referring you to experts on the selection of a fair jury and provide insight into the jury deliberation process.
- i. Information about the criminal defense process that will include articles written by experienced defense attorneys that may otherwise not be easily obtainable. These articles will include information about: how to select the best attorney, bail/bond

programs, pretrial hearings, procedures of the court, pretrial motions, plea negotiations, polygraph exams, eyewitness testimony, defense strategies, information concerning how the grand jury operates, and a number of other topics that are sure to be encountered during the pretrial stage of your case.

j. Are you worried about who may have set you up or who may be secretly cooperating with the government against you? Do you want to know who may be testifying against you? Do you want to know who among your associates isn't really a friend but a snitch or rat instead? Once you subscribe to PIP, we can help you determine the answers to these critical questions. By using the services of *Who's A Rat*, NLPA can search the informant files to determine information about individuals that you think may be involved in your case. This is just one of the **many** ways that NLPA can assist in ensuring that you are armed with the proper information and prepared to defend your case at trial beforehand! This search-function is offered as part of our Pretrial Information Program.

k. The use of eyewitness testimony for the defense.

l. The use of polygraph examinations to clear a defendant.

m. Can the police legally lie to prosecute you.

Once you have hired NLPA for the Pretrial Information Program (PIP), if your attorney is willing to have NLPA's assistance in preparing the actual defense of your case and should your family be financially in a position to pay for the next level of assistance, once we have a bona fide confirmation from your counsel that he is willing to receive our assistance, we will be able to then provide the Full Pre-trial Services as discussed below and the remaining balance of our research fee would be due and payable at that time.

FULL PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

As we have explained in the Pretrial Information Program information, should your attorney be willing to have our lawyers assist him/her in the actual research and preparation of pre-trial motions as well as work with him on the strategy to pursue in your defense, NLPA is happy to provide this additional service. The fee for this service is \$5,250.00 (**less** the PIP payment that you may have already made to NLPA for the Pretrial Information Program service).

Should your attorney be willing to have our lawyers work with him in your defense, NLPA would be happy to work with counsel in assisting you with preparing for trial of your case. We realize that

you need immediate relief of some form and that if you decide to hire NLPA to assist your counsel, you would want us to assist your attorney in disposing of the charges which you are facing in the quickest possible fashion while incurring the least possible cost to yourself and while also receiving maximum legal protection. In this situation, you need a defense team that understands and appreciates not only the court system, but the prison and probation systems as well. In the event you decide to hire NLPA to assist you and your counsel at this stage of your case, we would assist in providing many services. Though some may not be applicable to you, the types of services we generally can provide under the direction of your counsel are:

- a. Assist your counsel with preparing for initial hearings following arrest/custody pending bail.
- b. Assist your counsel in your efforts to obtain release on bail.
- c. Assist your counsel with preparations for arraignment.
- d. Assist counsel in the research and preparation of pre-trial and discovery motions. This is an extremely critical area of your case in that the pre-trial motions are the way in which your attorney can gain information from the government that it intends to use against you in the prosecution that is currently pending.

Examples of such potential pre-trial motions which we can assist your counsel in preparing are:

- Motions for production of information favorable to the defense.
 - Motion for disclosure of agreements between the government and the government witnesses that might be used against you.
 - Motions for production and discovery of evidence.
 - Motion for separate hearing to determine the existence of a conspiracy.
 - Motion for severance so that if your case involves other co-defendants, your counsel can seek to have your trial be held separately from the other co-defendants.
 - Motion to require the government to reveal any agreement, concession or grant of immunity that it may have given to anyone who may be providing information against you.
 - Motions for suppression of evidence improperly obtained against you.
 - Motion for discovery of electronic or other surveillance.
- e. Assist counsel in obtaining information from grand jury proceedings.
- f. Assist counsel with respect to research for preparation

of trial strategy.

- g. Assist counsel with respect to researching jury selection procedures in order to assist in obtaining a fair trial.
- h. If necessary, assist counsel in plea bargain negotiations.

PLEA NEGOTIATIONS & SENTENCING ASSISTANCE

If you are considering the *possibility* of looking into plea negotiations, please keep in mind that this does not mean that NLPA cannot assist you and your attorney with your case. Should you hire NLPA to assist your counsel in preparing for your trial, we are also happy to assist your counsel in plea negotiations should it be necessary if you and your attorney decide to change your strategy and pursue plea negotiations. Provided that your attorney is willing to continue to receive our assistance in this regard, NLPA will be happy to assist your attorney in reviewing the plea agreement and suggesting to your attorney any changes in it to make the arrangement better for you and to insure you receive what you are bargaining for at the time of sentencing.

In the event you go to trial and are convicted by the jury or, if you elect to enter into plea negotiations and enter a plea of guilty, prior to sentencing we would be happy to work with your counsel in the preparation of two important

pleadings which could be filed in court by your counsel on your behalf.

The first is a Motion to Correct the Pre-sentence Investigation Report. The Rules of Criminal Procedure lay out the specific requirements that must be followed procedurally by counsel if the defendant controverts statements contained in the Pre-sentence Investigation Report which may be relied upon by the court in imposing sentence.

The second is a Sentencing Memorandum. In the event you are convicted, the Government will prepare a Pre-sentence Investigation Report which will then be submitted to the court for its review prior to your sentencing. Regardless of whether or not you plead guilty or are convicted at trial, this is an extremely critical document which must be reviewed by your counsel to ensure its accuracy.

As this motion and memorandum in support need to be filed by your attorney significantly in advance of sentencing to permit the court sufficient time to review the matters in the Pre-sentence Investigation Report, time is of the essence in pursuing this matter. In the event you desire to have NLPA assist your counsel with regard to the research and writing of these pleadings, simply know that we are available to assist.

NLPA'S FEES

We are aware that not everyone can afford to pay our research fee in one lump sum. Depending on the status of your case, we may be able to work out a payment plan. However, you should also be aware

that we accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A form which can be utilized for payment on a credit card is enclosed with your family's packet or you may also contact our Finance Director with any questions you may have concerning this option.

We hope that this newsletter has given you a better understanding of the assistance we are in a position to provide your counsel at this most important time. We know that at this point you are extremely apprehensive about your approaching trial, and I would urge you to consider taking every possible action to help ensure that you have the best defense team available to you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Once you receive our material, we are happy to accept one collect call from you to answer any questions that you may have concerning our information. Pursuant to NLPA policy on this matter, no further collect calls will be accepted from you until your family has made the necessary financial arrangements with NLPA to begin assisting with your case. Of course, we are happy to correspond with you through the mail but I urge you to immediately contact your family and have them contact NLPA if you want to contract for our services.

FOLLOWING BAR ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS

Finally, a word about attorney representation. We know that you

want NLPA to assist your attorney so that you will have the strongest team approach possible in your case. However, as indicated above, we cannot provide the full pre-trial research assistance to your lawyer if your attorney is not willing to work with us. However, even if your lawyer does not want our assistance, or if he does want our help but you cannot afford to hire NLPA for that level of assistance you can still subscribe to the critical Pretrial Information Program (PIP) discussed above. The Bar Association is very strict regarding the issue of unauthorized practice of law. NLPA is not a law firm and cannot represent you in court or directly provide legal advice to you, nor can NLPA offer its legal research and drafting services to you directly. Therefore, you must be represented by counsel licensed to practice in the appropriate court and your counsel must be willing to work with NLPA in order to provide the full range of pre-trial research assistance. Should you desire to retain a new attorney, we are happy to refer you to experienced defense attorneys who are glad to receive the research and consultation of NLPA and to offer significantly reduced fees. Should you be unable to retain new counsel or should the lawyer that you may currently have representing you not desire to have the assistance of NLPA, we are limited to your subscribing to the NLPA Pretrial Information Program (PIP) but will not be able to prepare pre-trial motions or case-specific research for your attorney.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

NLPA can get started in your case with a simple telephone call. By contacting our main research office, executing an agreement for services, and making even an initial payment, NLPA can get started on your case. You can also pay using a credit/debit card over the telephone, Telecheck (Check by Phone) or cashier's check/money order.

EXPERT WITNESSES

Many times in the defense of a case it is important to have available to testify for the defendant witnesses who are experts concerning significant issues in the case. For example, testimony concerning DNA, Ballistics, Fingerprints, Mental Capacity, and other forensic matters are often times critical. NLPA has relationships with hundreds of experts throughout the United States who are available to testify concerning matters in the defendant's case. Once we are hired, we are in a position to help the defendant and his counsel gain access to these critical expert witnesses.

- ABOUT NLPA -

Since 1986, NLPA has provided affordable, quality consulting to lawyers across the nation. Through our involvement in literally thousands of cases, coupled with our national professional staff, NLPA has developed a unique and unmatched expertise in pretrial, trial, sentencing, appellate, and post conviction matters. Whether your client is in the state or federal

systems, faced with local or international matters, NLPA is a team member worth engaging.

As a result of its affiliations, National Legal Professional Associates has increased its ability to service you as counsel. With NLPA's relationship with the law firm of Ratliff & Robinson, P.A., assistance is available in arranging for local counsel and co-counsel, if needed, throughout any judicial district in the United States. NLPA has associate offices located in Houston Texas, Dallas Texas, Mobile Alabama and to augment its Cincinnati, Ohio operations center, and Naples, Florida administrative office.

Getting NLPA started on your team is not difficult nor time-consuming. Simply contact us at the numbers below and talk with a member of our staff.

You are important to us and we hope we can commence and maintain a long-term relationship with you. Please know that we are here to assist in all your needs.

If you would like to know more about the services we offer, please contact us at:

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Or to find out more, visit us at
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