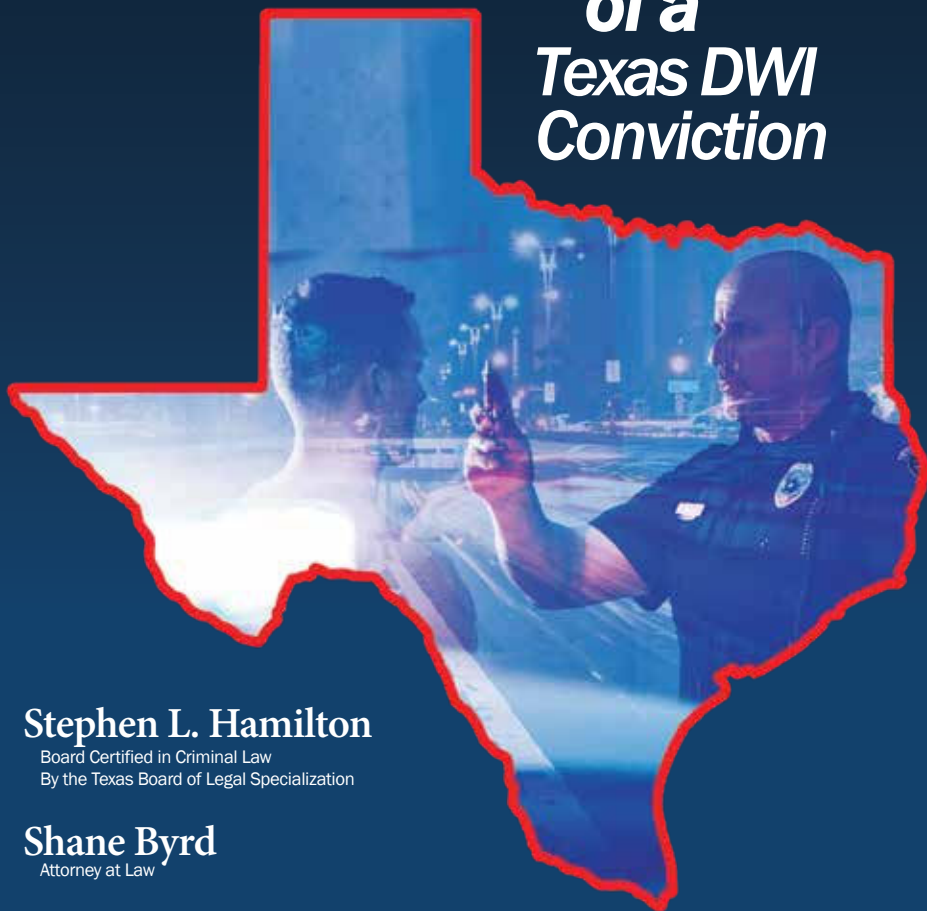


PROTECT YOUR FUTURE
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What Plea Lawyers
Won't Tell You: **the Real**
Consequences
of a
**Texas DWI
Conviction**



Stephen L. Hamilton

Board Certified in Criminal Law
By the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Shane Byrd

Attorney at Law

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Stephen L. Hamilton, JD

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Editing services by Siobhan Gallagher, YourBestEditor.com.

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Introduction

DWI convictions can ruin lives, starting with losing your license and paying fines for years, plus a whole host of consequences, some obvious and some not so obvious.

Hefty fines, license revocation, mandatory drug and alcohol classes, community service—sometimes even jail time—can be the tip of the iceberg. We’re talking *Titanic* here—but you don’t have to go under. The information in this book can be your life raft.

As a public safety issue, DWI policies and procedures reflect an emotional response. They are NOT a practical solution.

DWI collateral consequences in Texas include license suspension, reinstatement surcharges, installation of interlock and surveillance systems in your car, and the rental fees that you must pay for being monitored every time you drive.

A 2006 study by Austin-based Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing Commission found that first-time DWI convictions, *with no associated*

collision or injury, will cost you anywhere from \$5000 to \$24,000. And that's just if you're a first-time offender! Prior convictions will increase your penalties.

What if you miss work due to jail and community service sentences? And what if you're required to take drug/alcohol classes, even if you have no addiction issues? A suspended license can make it hard—or even impossible—to get to work or drive vehicles while on the job.

A DWI conviction can restrict your travel and any immigration status, prevent you from completing a college or advanced degree if you can't get to class, and present a host of other problems, all because you made the mistake of having a few drinks before driving.

These penalties don't even deter drunk driving. To make matters worse, 95% of DWI defendants are found guilty—not just because they plead guilty but because many lawyers don't know how to effectively defend against a DWI conviction.

We don't want you to be one of those 95%. There are competent lawyers who are experienced and successful in defending DWI cases. As expert

DWI lawyers ourselves, we are going to tell you how to find one.

This book explains the ins and outs and consequences of a DWI conviction. It covers the fines, jail sentences, community service, probation, mandatory classes, and related penalties you or a loved one are facing from a criminal court and the Department of Public Safety.

With this book, you will be able to locate a successful, experienced attorney, one who can advise you, and one who will fight for you.

The lawyers at **Texas Criminal Defense Group** want you to be one of that lucky 5%.

So, let's begin!

DWI & Its Consequences

It's perfectly legal to drink and drive, if you're 21 or older and not on probation, as long as: a) you're not intoxicated; and b) your blood alcohol (BAC)/breath alcohol content (BrAC) is below 0.08. Although, despite being well below the legal limit of .08, if you have lost the normal use of your mental or physical abilities as a result of alcohol, under Texas law, you are still considered intoxicated.

What does “intoxicated” mean exactly?

DWI statutes define being intoxicated as “not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination of two or more substances, or any other substance into the body.”

Police officers claim to have “special training” in field sobriety testing. That testing, which consists of a mere three-day class, gives them the right to call themselves experts? We don't agree. (Let's be

grateful that surgeons take far more than a three-day class before picking up a scalpel!)

What are DWI's consequences?

First DWI offense

If your BrAC/BAC was at least 0.08 but under 0.15, it's a Class B misdemeanor, which could leave you facing anywhere from 3 days to 6 months in jail. That's unless you were caught driving with an open container within reach, which will increase your sentence.

If you blew a 0.15 or higher, it's a Class A misdemeanor and you're facing up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$4,000.

If you had a child age 15 or under in the vehicle, it's automatically a FELONY.

Second DWI offense

A second DWI conviction is automatically a Class A misdemeanor and you'll find yourself facing 30 days to an entire year in county jail. Again, if there was a child, 15 or under, in the vehicle, it becomes a FELONY and you'll find yourself now

facing 6 months to 2 years in state jail, plus a fine of up to \$10,000.

Third DWI offense

A third arrest and the charge automatically becomes a third-degree felony, accompanied by 2 to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Remember, these are merely the fine and jail time consequences of DWI. There's a whole host of other collateral consequences that can shake your life from its very foundation. And this is where it gets really expensive.

License Suspension

One of the most damaging consequences of a DWI conviction is the suspension of your license. You abruptly lose your freedom to conveniently run errands, visit family and friends, pick up your kids, even just visit your favorite places—all the stuff you've taken for granted up until now.

Even more important—if you depend on your driver's license for work, even just to commute, for driving company vehicles, or because your job requires a commercial driver's license, you risk losing your job and your paycheck. Without income,

you can lose your home and your ability to provide for yourself and your family and it can destroy your credit score—the aftershocks can be massive.

Your license can be suspended in two ways: administrative or with a DWI conviction. An administrative suspension is given when you're arrested, if you refuse to submit to a Breathalyzer or blood test, or if your blood alcohol content was 0.08 or over (or, if you're under 21, if any amount of alcohol is detected). This can result in a 90-day license suspension. That's called a "failure." If you have prior "alcohol contact" within the past 10 years, you will lose your license for a year.

From the day of your arrest, you have just 15 days to file a request for an ALR (administrative license revocation) hearing to contest this suspension. If you miss that deadline, the suspension will happen 41 days after the arrest.

If you consented to a blood test, the clock doesn't start ticking until the Department of Public Safety (DPS) sends you a notice. However, we see lots of mistakes made by officers all the time, such as labeling your charge a "failure" when in fact you did not refuse and your blood was taken. Always consult with a qualified DWI-experienced

attorney immediately to verify the status of your license.

If you did refuse to consent to the test and this is your first offense, it typically results in a 180-day suspension. If it's not your first offense, if you have a prior "alcohol contact" within the last 10 years, it's a 2-year suspension.

NOTE: If you hold a commercial driving license, even if you were in a non-CDL vehicle and your personal license is suspended, your CDL will also be suspended—for one year if it's a first offense, and longer, possibly your lifetime, if it's not your first offense.

The second way your license can be suspended is for a DWI conviction. (See "Innocent Until Proven Guilty—a DWI Myth" further on in this chapter.)

Pay Up!

The world of DWI is expensive. How expensive? Well, let's start with the 3 annual administrative surcharges you must pay to keep your license for the 3 years following your conviction. A Class B misdemeanor DWI conviction carries a \$3000 surcharge over 3 years. Subsequent DWI convictions cost \$4500 over 3 years. If your

BAC/BrAC clocked in at 0.15 or higher, you're looking at a total of \$6000. So, for repeat DWI convictions, you'll pay \$4500–6000. That's *in addition* to any fine and mandatory jail time.

That's not all. You also have to pay for installation and rental of ignition interlock devices for your car, or any surveillance technology included in your probation. Installations of interlock devices typically cost \$100–200, with monthly rental fees of \$70–100.

In some cases the court or your probation officer might require you to wear an ankle monitor 24/7 to see if you've gone out drinking. This unit is embarrassing, awkward, and expensive. Clients tell us the cost of this unit can exceed \$400 each month!

Your drug and alcohol awareness classes aren't free either. Although mandatory, private companies teach these classes and demand payment. Drug and alcohol awareness classes can cost you hundreds of dollars.

Once you get your driver's license back, your auto insurance rates may increase, along with health and life insurance premiums. Now you're a "high-risk" driver with a record for being a threat

to public safety. You're considered to be a walking liability. That's never cheap.

On top of this pile of administrative fees are the economic consequences that accompany having your mobility drastically limited for three to six months, plus hours of community service and up to a full workweek's worth of classes. Many DWI offenders end up losing their jobs, causing even greater financial strain.

Community Service

Generally, first and second DWI offenses can run up to 100 or more hours of community service. We have seen some felony DWIs run as high as 500 hours. Unless you can prove that this much time represents hardship to your dependents, you could be looking at more than 3 months of 40 hours a week of community service!

Classes & Treatment

Most defendants are also sentenced to a drug and alcohol awareness class and are sometimes required to go to rehab. These classes are designed to show you what a deeply troubled, broken, and dangerous person you are and can lead to self-loathing, depression, and even unprecedented alcoholism.

Innocent Until Proven Guilty—a DWI Myth

In criminal court, defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Not so for DWI defendants, because the administrative consequences are civil in nature, not criminal. The DPS attorney need only show a *preponderance of evidence* and NOT guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. That's enough to get your driver's license suspended.

Also, implied consent laws in Texas are such that refusing to submit to a BAC/BrAC test will lead to your arrest. In the criminal proceeding, the prosecutor will suggest you refused because you knew you would be over the legal limit. It will also be raised in the administrative hearing, because the implied consent law states that you agreed when you got your license that, if requested, you would take a chemical test.

Conviction-related license suspension

With a first offense, your license is automatically suspended for 180 days. If you have priors, it'll be for a full year. If you're a minor, you face a 60- to 180-day license suspension, more if you registered 0.08 or higher.

Again, if you provide a sample over the legal limit, your license can be administratively suspended for up to 90 days on a first offense and up to 1 year if there exists a prior “alcohol contact” within the previous 10 years. If you refused to give a sample, then a first offense will get you a 180-day suspension, or 2 years if you’ve got a prior within the past 10 years.

Should I refuse to be tested?

It’s entirely your choice. If you refuse, officers may be able to get a warrant to forcibly test your blood under the law, but when it comes to court, we can challenge that warrant. Either way, you face losing your license temporarily and spending at least one night in jail.

DWI vs. Other Substance Offenses

Driving while intoxicated is a substance offense, seen as a threat to public safety, a red flag for potential employers, lenders, and landlords, and a moral failing on your part.

A DWI conviction carries social stigma, from being publicly ostracized to being denied jobs, making life considerably more difficult. Working with children, certain occupations requiring licensure, professional organization, and institutions of higher education may deny you entry because of a substance conviction. Landlords, lenders, employers, and others will think twice before trusting you.

Drug and alcohol awareness classes and rehabilitation are common sentences for substance offenders. For offenders without a substance abuse problem, these classes can erode their self-worth and lead them to use drugs and alcohol regularly. This is especially true for minors caught with marijuana or alcohol

and who learn about other substances through court-ordered classes and treatment.

What Makes a DWI Defense Tricky

There are three key differences that make defending against a DWI charge vs. other substance abuse charges challenging:

1. Administrative consequences
2. Not knowing you were drunk
3. Deferred adjudication (probation) is not an option

Administrative Consequences

While other substance abuse charges are strictly criminal matters, DWI defendants face both criminal court and administrative (civil) consequences. So, while other substance abuse defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, DWI defendants are only subject to a preponderance of evidence. DWI is trickier because your lawyer needs to understand the science and technology of the tools and methodologies used to collect evidence. What you need to know is that not all—not even many—attorneys understand the intricacies of these critical considerations.

But, Officer, I didn't know I was drunk...

Tough.

You don't have to know you're intoxicated to be convicted of DWI. With other substance-abuse charges, if you didn't know what you possessed or delivered, the state may not be able to prove possession. But with DWI, even if you didn't know you were intoxicated, you can still be found guilty. That means you can be judged guilty of a crime without having acted with criminal intent.

No Deferred Adjudication

Deferred adjudication (delaying judgment) is a common plea option for first-time substance offenses, where a judge postpones entering a guilty verdict. Instead, the defendant is simply sentenced to a probation period where the state checks up on them, tests their urine, and requires treatment or class attendance. If the defendant meets all of the requirements of probation, the case against them is dismissed.

Deferred adjudication, however, is NOT allowed under Texas law in DWI convictions. Instead, if you are given probation, you still have the guilty verdict on your record.

What Penalties Am I Looking At?

A DWI changes your life overnight. It affects everything from your job to your living situation to your ability to get to the grocery store and a doctor's appointment. Travel takes longer, you must depend more on those around you, and your career path and living situation may change drastically. If you're facing a DWI, you must assess the impact of a DWI on your life. There are some questions you need to answer to do so:

1. Is this your first DWI?
2. What was your BAC/BrAC?
3. Is DWI the only charge you're facing?
4. How much do you really need your car?
5. What's your current job?
6. What is your financial situation?
7. Are you a U.S. citizen?

Is this your first DWI?

If so, you're most likely looking at a Class B misdemeanor. If it's your second, you're looking

at a Class A misdemeanor. Your third is a felony, with the possibility of significant jail time and a fine of up to \$10,000. That's a *permanent* felony record.

What was your BAC/BrAC?

If you blew a 0.15 or higher, a Class B misdemeanor will be ratcheted up to a Class A misdemeanor and the surcharge you have to pay over 3 years will likely rise from \$3,000 to as high as \$6,000. You'll also have to install and rent an ignition interlock device.

Is DWI the only charge you're facing?

Is it just DWI? Or is it DWI with intoxication assault and/or child endangerment? You might be dealing with more than one Class B misdemeanor. If anyone was assaulted or injured, any property damage was sustained, or kids 15 or under were involved (again, an automatic felony charge), your situation is more serious.

How much do you really need your car?

The more you depend on your car, the worse off you will be after a DWI conviction. You could lose your license for at least three months. So, if you

live in a pedestrian-unfriendly city or rural area where you have to drive to get to work, school, the store, or anywhere else, that's gonna hurt. Even if transport is available to you, you'll have to budget your time to accommodate, including potentially longer travel times.

What's your job?

Do you work in a hospital? For the government? Do you hold a professional license? There are a lot of jobs that you risk losing with a DWI conviction.

What if your job requires you to carry a firearm? You can't get (or keep) a license for a firearm with a felony conviction, for example. You may find yourself scrambling to find a new career, increasing the pain of any financial consequences.

What is your financial situation?

What is your current financial situation? Have you managed to save any money or are you living paycheck to paycheck? Are others financially dependent on you? What will your life look like with the added monthly expense of interlock device rental and annual surcharges? What if your work hours are cut due to community service and drug and alcohol awareness classes?

Are you a US citizen?

If you are not a US citizen, a DWI conviction can affect your immigration status. If you are working toward becoming a naturalized citizen, you will have to wait a further five years after any conviction. And as the law is constantly changing, how a DWI conviction today will affect an immigration case tomorrow is something else to consider.

Renewal of your green card can be delayed or denied entirely. If you are in the US on an F-1 or H-1B visa and your DWI causes you to lose your job or your professional license to be suspended, you lose your work visa right along with it.

If you are a US citizen, you may have difficulty entering other countries, such as Canada, which restricts travel and immigration for foreign nationals with DWI convictions. If you travel for business, your conviction can limit your ability to do your job. Some states prohibit you from moving from one state to another if you're on probation for a second DWI conviction. Your third DWI conviction could affect your ability to travel outside the country altogether.

ALR Hearings

Although ALR hearings are difficult to win, that does not mean your lawyer should pass on it.

We see three valuable reasons to do ALR hearings:

1. It buys you more time behind the wheel and your lawyer more time to prepare for you to get an essential need or occupational driver's license.
2. Your lawyer can depose the officer involved to find out what the officer will testify to at a criminal trial.
3. You can't win if you don't try. Such hearings can reveal information that can help your attorney to win at trial. If we never requested it, we would not have the opportunity to save the license.

SR-22 Insurance and an Occupational Driver's License

If your job, education, or other essential element of your life heavily depends on your ability to drive, you may be eligible for an occupational

driver's license (also known as an essential need license). It must be accompanied by an SR-22 insurance policy, which you'll have to pay in addition to your regular insurance.

An occupational license does not replace a CDL. An occupational license merely allows you to drive a non-commercial vehicle for purposes directly connected to your work, education, or essential duties like the health of you or a dependent. If the court determines you're eligible, the judge will issue an order authorizing the DPS to issue you an occupational license. This process may take up to 30 days, but you can use your court order as a proof of your eligibility to drive.

If this is your first DWI, there's a good chance you will be awarded an occupational driver's license. If you've had any run-ins with DWI or had an ALR in the past, you may be penalized with a longer suspension and some of the suspension can be a "hard" suspension, meaning you are banned from holding an occupational driver's license during that time.

We know it's tempting for DWI defendants to risk driving on a suspended license while hoping for the best. This is a very bad idea. You do NOT want to get pulled over while driving on a suspended

license, especially if it's been suspended on DWI charges.

Driving on a suspended license is a surefire way to prove to the court that you are a high-risk driver and a threat to public safety.

It's also another charge, another fine, another process, and another set of consequences you don't want to deal with.

If I'm a Minor, I'm OK, Right?

Wrong!

If you're under 21, driving after consuming ANY alcohol is DWI. If you're at least 18, you face a lot of the same realities that adults of legal drinking age face. And although license suspension time tends to be shorter, any trace of alcohol means you fail a Breathalyzer test—there's no acceptable level.

License Suspension

For anyone under 21, even a few sips of beer if you're driving means you face not just losing your license for 60 days but also criminal charges. Even if you qualify for an essential needs license for work or school, you'll wait a mandatory 30-day period before one is authorized. In the meantime, you'll be forced to rely on friends and family for rides.

If your BAC/BrAC tested over 0.08, you face the same consequences as anyone over the age of 21. A voluntary blood or breath specimen gets you a 90-day license suspension. If you refuse to give a sample, it's a 6-month suspension.

Class, Community Service, and Probation

Drug and alcohol awareness classes, community service, and probation are all likely consequences of DWI for minors. Many must endure some form of substance abuse rehabilitation even if they don't have substance abuse problems. In addition to community service and appointments required for court and probation, added drug and alcohol awareness classes take another huge chunk out of time needed for school and work.

A \$1,500 fine for a minimum-wage earner is a ton of money, especially when those hours are wedged in between community service, court appearances, and court-ordered classes.

Many colleges and universities sanction students charged with DWI, possibly even with expulsion. You can lose a scholarship and, if expelled, any loans you've taken out to pay for school won't go away. You'll be stuck paying back student loans for a degree you don't have.

Won't My Juvenile Record Be Expunged?

Nope. For juvenile DWI offenders in Texas, unlike in other states, your record does not get expunged once you turn 21. Colleges and university admissions, potential employers, landlords, the Department of Human Services, and anyone else doing a background check can access your criminal record.

You can petition to have your record sealed in the hope of starting fresh at age 21. However, in addition to this being a process you must legally petition for, there are many crimes that cannot be sealed, and if you have a felony conviction, the court is never obligated to seal your case. It's a record you're now stuck with. We strongly suggest you have your attorney handle any petition. Don't attempt this on your own.

Wait!

There's More...

Do you need to apply for loans? Do you have a child custody agreement in place? Have you considered filing for bankruptcy? These are all seemingly unlikely questions that you also need to ask yourself, because these areas of your life will also feel the aftershocks of your conviction.

Housing Consequences

Liability is a huge risk for lenders and property owners. People don't want to rent to or sell their house to a DWI offender. Why? Property management companies and landlords know that DWI convicts are strapped for cash and that paying fines trumps rent, putting them at increased financial risk.

Also, the liability from housing a convict is significant, such as potential property damage when a potential drunk driver pulls into their garage. The same risks apply when looking for a

mortgage loan—you're just not worth the risk, as far as they're concerned.

Child Custody Consequences

Losing custody of your kids is another painful potential consequence. Prison time, community service, classes, and rehabilitation all limit the time you can care for your kids. Losing your license means you can't take them where they need to go or drive to see them. If you were arrested for DWI with your kids in the car, Child Protective Services will know. That means some rough and sudden changes. If you lose your job, they lose your income. If you lose your license, they lose their driver. If you lose your home, they lose their home.

While there are some options available to single parents and heads of household facing DWI charges, if you have priors, it's an uphill battle. You need a lawyer to guide you through the process, act as your advocate, and negotiate on your behalf. Talk to us if you have questions.

Additional Consequences for Felons

A third DWI is automatically a third-degree felony. This means a possible 2 to 10 years in prison and

a \$10,000 fine, not to mention a difficult life once you get out, with significant barriers to housing, employment, and travel, as well as some of your rights. Even if you get probation, the length of probation is typically long (up to 10 years) with many, many requirements.

In Texas, you can never vote again. Think that's no big deal? On the contrary—as citizens, our vote is how we weigh in about how decisions are made that affect our lives. You don't want to give that up.

You are barred from serving on a jury. Serving on a jury is how the public participates in how justice is administered.

Obtaining a passport and being granted visas to enter other countries is a lot harder with a felony on your record.

You could be barred from receiving government assistance or federal housing grants and from participating in many professions.

We Want You In That 5%!

Not everyone gets convicted on DWI charges. Budgeting for a bleak future with a DWI conviction is only the second-best way to prepare yourself for what's to come.

YOUR BEST SOLUTION is to retain a competent defense attorney, one who knows how to successfully defend against DWI charges. Does yours know how to defend against a blood test or argue with breath test results because they're trained in the precise science? Most aren't, and so they do no more than negotiate a plea deal for their clients.

We are **NOT** most lawyers.

The law firm of **Texas Criminal Defense Group** has written this book (and others) to help ensure that anyone charged with a DWI in Texas knows ahead of time of the consequences of a DWI conviction. Don't make the mistake of

simply pleading guilty without knowing first and fully what lies ahead.

Our lawyers possess in-depth knowledge of DWI procedures from the time you're detained to the time you're released on bail.

- We own our own Intoxilyzer 5000 and Portable Breath Test machines.
- We have the very software used by Texas DPS for blood tests, and we know how to use it.
- We are fully trained in field sobriety tests.
- We know DWI laws and procedures inside and out.
- We know how to formulate aggressive and effective defense strategies that can save you a lifetime of woe.
- We regularly challenge breath and blood results.
- We have gotten Not Guilty verdicts on breath, blood, and refusal cases, from first-timers to habitual 25-to-life DWI offenders.

Stephen Hamilton is also the author of the *Protect Your Future, Know Your Rights* series of books

in Texas, which includes *A Citizen's Guide to a DWI Arrest in Texas*.

Stephen Hamilton have personally completed the very same training courses required of state Intoxilyzer experts and breath test technicians, as well as blood alcohol analysis training and forensic blood training.

We know what the raw data looks like, when the technology used to test your breath or your blood is not calibrated correctly, when the lab that reported your results is not up to code, and we know when the person who administered your test is not actually qualified for their job.

Stephen **teach other lawyers** in Texas—and the country—how to try DWI cases.

If you're facing DWI charges, don't just roll over and accept the consequences. We want you in that 5%.

Call us at 833-TexasJustice (833-839-2758). Someone here is always available to answer your call, no matter what day, no matter what hour.

For more information about our law firms, our team, and our experience trying DWI cases, visit us at texascriminaldefensegroup.com.

Meet the Team at Texas Criminal Defense Group

Attorney Stephen L. Hamilton, a partner at Texas Criminal Defense Group, has been awarded the highest possible AVVO rating (10) and his counsel is highly esteemed by his peers. Stephen ranks among the fewer than 1% of practicing criminal attorneys across Texas who have achieved coveted board certification in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

He is a lifetime legal member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and several other regional legal associations.

Scientific certifications include completing Blood Testing Gas Chromatograph training (used to test blood for alcohol and/or drug levels) and solid-



Stephen L. Hamilton

state forensic drug testing (the legal requirement for Texas lab technicians to establish and identify substances by their precise drug composition).

Stephen has tried over 100 cases to a jury and has obtained not guilty verdicts in cases ranging from traffic tickets to those carrying a punishment range of 25 years to life in prison. He wins cases through all available means: motions, negotiations, trials, and appeals.

Before becoming a partner at Texas Criminal Defense Group, Shane had a solid history as a successful local businessman and owner of three bond companies, National Bonding of Lubbock, Lone Star Bail Bond, and American Bail Bond. Shane worked for more than three decades to assist clients and their families navigate their way through the criminal justice system, liaising with attorneys, judges, clerks, and the courts throughout Lubbock and most of Texas before deciding he wanted to help his clients beyond getting them bonded out of jail. With his undergraduate degree in criminal justice, he pursued his dream of becoming a criminal



Shane Byrd

defense attorney and graduated with his J.D. from Charlotte School of Law, Charlotte, North Carolina. Returning home to Lubbock, he worked with the firm as of counsel and is now a partner at Texas Criminal Defense Group. He focuses his practice in the area of criminal defense. Shane's strong ties to the Lubbock community extend to ownership of a number of local businesses and the many events he has produced for Texas Tech students. As an active member of the community, he understands that good people make mistakes and is driven by his passion to protect the future of such persons and resolving their cases quickly and positively.

If you or a loved one ever find yourself arrested DWI in Texas, this book is a must-read!

Attorneys Texas Criminal Defense Group believe in empowering people to make the best decisions when confronted with potentially life-altering events caused by a DWI arrest. Everyone is entitled to a strong and passionate defense. That is why they have written this book. It will arm you with information about DWI arrests in Texas and how to assemble the best defense possible.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Stephen L. Hamilton

Attorney Stephen Hamilton is the founding partner and lead trial attorney at Texas Criminal Defense Group. Stephen ranks among the fewer than 1% of practicing criminal attorneys across Texas who have achieved coveted board certification in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He has been awarded numerous awards, and his counsel is highly esteemed by his peers. He is a lifetime legal member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and several other regional legal associations.