

Brent Mayr: Even if you're charged with a misdemeanor, the problem is that not only do you face possible jail time as a result of being convicted of that offense, but with a lot of misdemeanor offenses you find a lot of collateral consequences- people losing their licenses, losing their ability to work, losing their ability to find work, to find homes.

That's where the real need to have a specialist like myself becomes so critical because what may seem like a simple misdemeanor can have consequences that affect a person for their entire life. It's not dealing just with the criminal charge but with all the other effects of that criminal charge that it can have on a person where you need a specialist that knows about those potential other consequences a person faces. You get what you pay for.

A lot of people think, "Oh, just because I've got a simple misdemeanor I can get an attorney for a couple hundred dollars or a thousand dollars," but the problem is that, again, if that's a problem that is only being dealt with right then and there, that might get you something, but again, you need to have someone who's going to be there in the long-run to help you with any other consequences, especially with a misdemeanor charge.