

## Federal Complaint Proceedings

Please review this information carefully. You have been charged in a criminal federal complaint. This is a document which has not yet been presented to a Federal Grand Jury. A Grand Jury meets once a month to hear allegations made against individuals. Grand Jury hearings are closed to the public. Only the people on a Grand Jury, the prosecutor, and the agent are allowed to be present. At the Grand Jury hearing, the agent is allowed to summarize the facts against and the Grand Jury must determine if there is probable cause for your charges. It is anticipated that your case will be presented to the Grand Jury within 60 days. After, and if, an indictment is issued, you will subsequently have additional court appearances. The first will be an arraignment and is very similar in nature to the initial appearance, your first hearing, and a copy of your indictment will be given to you. This indictment will contain the formal charges against you.

Once you are indicted, your case will then be scheduled for trial. You have a right to plead not guilty and a jury trial will be scheduled. You may decide to plead guilty and give up your rights associated with a jury trial. This means that you admit the charges against you and give up certain constitutional rights. If you decide to exercise your constitutional rights and have a trial by jury, you will be presumed innocent throughout the trial proceedings. The prosecutor must present evidence which proves the case against you beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury. A jury must decide if the prosecutor meets that burden. The jury will determine if you are guilty (that you did the charges) or not guilty (that the prosecutor did not prove the charges and the charges are dismissed).

If convicted of this criminal charge(s), you would be a felon that would cause you to lose several constitutional rights. Depending on the serious nature of the charges, you **may** face time in jail.

Before a jury trial can be scheduled, I will be provided the evidence against you which allegedly supports the charge(s) and review this evidence with you. There may be a delay in receiving all the evidence at first.

**Before a trial is scheduled, you also have a pre-trial conference hearing. This is a status hearing to assure that the government has produced all the evidence. It may also be the time any pre-motions will be heard by the court, if necessary.**

Please note any questions that you have and schedule a consultation. Ms. Hall will be glad to answer those for you.