

Federal Indictment Proceedings

Please review this information carefully. You have been charged in a criminal federal indictment. This document has 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 the Grand Jury, the prosecutor and the agents are allowed to be present. At the Grand Jury hearing, the agents summarize the facts against you and the Grand Jury determines if there is enough probable cause against you to support the charges which allows the charges. As a result, your case will now be set for additional court proceedings.

You have a right to plead not guilty and a jury trial will be scheduled. If you decide to plead guilty, you give up all your constitutional rights associated with a jury trial. This means that you admit the charges against you, waive your right to remain silent, and will not have a jury trial. If you decide to exercise your constitutional rights and have a trial by jury, you will be presumed innocent throughout the proceeding. 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 and 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, you would be a felon, depending on the serious nature of the charges, and you **may** also face time in jail. As the charges have just been issued, it will be necessary for me to review all the evidence against you prior to advising on the seriousness of your charge.

Before a jury trial can be scheduled, I will be shown all the evidence against you which allegedly supports the charge. You will be allowed to review all the information with me at some point prior to trial

Before a jury trial is scheduled, you will 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 for the court to hear any pre-motions, if necessary.

Please call my office and schedule an appointment and one of my employees will assist you. At any point during my representation, please feel free to call. We are always happy to schedule an appointment for you anytime you have any questions or information to provide to my office. Thank you for allowing us to represent you.

LAW OFFICE OF JANIS RICHARDSON HALL

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