



Kamille Dean

By Nicole Girard

Passionate, Caring, Down to Earth

Kamille Dean—of The Law Office of Kamille Dean P.L.C.—has always had a passion for helping people. Her stellar reputation is founded on the fact that she truly cares for the welfare of her clients. The ambitious and dedicated attorney is well known for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure her clients are treated fairly. “My clients are people of all ages who are enduring a great hardship as a result of being charged with a crime,” she said. “People are not perfect. If a client comes to me and admits they made a poor decision, we focus on helping them learn from their mistakes and moving forward with life.”

Her ingrained inclination to defend those accused of wrongdoing fuels her ambition to win. “I’m compassionate,” she said. “But at the same time, I’m competitive by nature. I like to win.”

She’s proven herself to be a formidable force in her chosen realm of criminal defense. Her tough brand of representation has earned her the nickname of “Tiger” among colleagues; while a client once referred to her as a “shark in lamb’s wool.” Needless to say such notoriety has been a boon to her Phoenix-based law firm. Dean’s entire book of business is built on referrals she has received from colleagues and former clients.





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Luhrs Tower

Armed with just her cell phone and a small office in the historic Luhrs Tower in Phoenix, Dean launched her legal practice in the fall of 2007. Luhrs ornate, 13 story, art-deco skyscraper was built in 1929 by influential Arizona businessman, George Luhrs. Dean favored the building because it was in close proximity to the Maricopa County Superior Court, where most of Dean's cases are heard. It allows her to easily access the courts, cut down on travel time and work on her clients' cases. Being close to court helps her service her clients.

Upon her arrival, Dean moved into a single office in a suite on the fourth floor of Luhrs with another attorney. In just a few short years however, her practice moved to the 12th Floor of the Luhrs Tower and has grown to include legal assistants, interns, and a coverage attorney.

Dean attributes her success in part to her effective communication style. She operates under the belief that the

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first step to building a solid defense, is to engage in a serious, no-holds-barred conversation with her client. They discuss in an open and honest manner the issues and events that lead to the criminal allegations.

"Not everyone is guilty," she said. "Some people are innocent and have had their rights violated."

Off the Beaten Path

Throughout her formative years growing up in a small town near Grand Junction, Colorado, Dean's grandmother used to speak of Dean becoming a judge someday. She recognized a heightened sense of compassion and fairness in her granddaughter. She felt those qualities would suit her well in the field of law.

During her high school years, when most young adults are preoccupied with courting newfound freedoms, Dean worked part-time as a deputy clerk for the town she grew up in. Dean took minutes at town hall meetings and helped draft ordinances. It was at this time she became attracted to the practice of law.

By the time Dean was ready for college, she had cultivated a growing interest in criminal justice. She was accepted into the Pre-Law program at the University of Denver when she was just 18. Rather than go to Denver at this stage Dean decided to pursue a degree in psychology which she felt would equip her with the means to assist people through difficulties.

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While in college, Dean worked one-on-one with individuals who were being treated for mental illnesses. Dean found she could effortlessly build a solid rapport with individuals. Psychology turned out to be a good fit. She graduated summa cum laude with her B.A. in Psychology in 1994. Propelled by her success, she went on to receive her M.A. in Psychology with distinction from Northern Arizona University.

While earning her master's graduation, Dean worked as a



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leader/counselor at a young girls' group home. The residents were either runaways, or fresh out of juvenile detention center. Most were facing various drug, stealing and assault charges. While she considers this to have been an enriching experience, Dean eventually became ready to pursue her law degree.

"I felt like being an attorney would allow me to be more effective in helping people," she said. "It's the same thing as counseling, but in a more productive atmosphere."

She went on to earn her J.D. cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 2004. After graduation, she relocated to Arizona in 2006. She took a job with Robert J. Campos, a certified criminal law specialist, while she waited to become licensed to practice law in Arizona. They worked side by side, and she assisted him in representing clients facing serious charges and developing case strategies. Dean learned how to run and manage a good practice by observing Campos and she believes that is what has made her successful today.

After she became licensed, Dean worked at the public defender's office to gain courtroom experience and that is where she met several other colleagues she respects, including her mentor.

Dean's practice now centers around felony cases, with some misdemeanor representation. Recently, Dean began taking

related civil forfeiture cases to assist individuals in getting their property back.

People Make Mistakes

According to Dean, approximately half of her caseload is related to an underlying substance abuse problem. Dean caters to individuals of a Hispanic origin and with the use of an interpreter, Dean is patient with her clients and explains the legal process. Dean has also recently represented a lot of young adults in trouble for making poor decisions. "I've handled several armed robbery cases where kids try to steal an iPhone or iPod". Most of Dean's cases now involve individuals charged with assisting in some sort of illegal drug transaction. Dean approaches each case from the mindset that her clients are simply regular people who need some help getting back on track.

"Times are hard," Dean said. "People make poor decisions when they are desperate, and almost all the younger adults I've dealt with have found themselves in the wrong crowds, and are becoming addicted to drugs at a young age. It is sad."

When a client comes to her, Dean helps them to evaluate their lives, focus on the areas that need work. She motivates them to find employment, finish school, enter treatment, join a church, and, perhaps most importantly, nurture the positive relationships

At a Glance

Kamille Dean

Solo Practitioner

The Law Offices of Kamille Dean

<http://www.kamilledean.com/>

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Criminal Defense

- Possession or Transportation of Drugs for Sale
- Aggravated Assault
- Armed Robbery/Theft
- Burglary
- Forgery
- Criminal Damage
- Disorderly Conduct
- Domestic Violence
- DUI (Alcohol or Drugs)
- Misconduct Involving Weapons

Education

- J.D., University of Minnesota, 2004, (cum laude)
- M.A. in Psychology, Northern Arizona University, 1998, (with distinction)
- B.A. in Psychology, Mesa State College, 1994, (summa cum laude)

Clerkships

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Philip D. Bush

Admitted to Practice

- California, 2004
- Minnesota, 2005
- Arizona, 2006
- U.S. District of Court of Arizona, 2008

Professional Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Arizona Women Lawyers Association



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in their lives and distance themselves from the negative ones.

“My clients are encouraged when I give them a list of what they need to do to help themselves,” she said.

These methods are an integral part of Dean’s defense strategy. Not only is a judge much more likely to view her client in a positive light, but through her counseling and support, Dean is able to help them get back on their feet. By her ability to evaluate and understand people Dean is able to truly make a permanent difference in their lives.

The laws in Arizona and the punishment are very harsh. Dean cannot guarantee the outcome of a case, but does guarantee to her clients that she will work very hard on their case and give them the best representation she can.