

Call Your Lawyer • Antoinette Martinez

Antoinette Martinez is a California attorney whose focus is the nuts and bolts issues pertaining to CDL holders, things like speeding, logbook, lane use, overweight tickets, and the like. She is very passionate about her work, and one of the nicest people I have ever had the opportunity to interview. She attends events and supports associations within our industry and is a member of WIT and CTA (California Trucking Association).

Antoinette began her law career in 1996 as a research assistant, prior to becoming a criminal prosecutor who moved on to being a public defender before deciding upon commercial traffic law as her focus. In 2003 she opened her own practice. She operates throughout central California, from Bakersfield to Stockton, and all points in between. Her practice takes her into eight counties. Although she is based in Clovis, she travels extensively throughout the region representing truck drivers in all courts for any citation.

Her goal in life is to be an advocate for the underrepresented and feels she has found that special niche where she can do the most good for the most people. Antoinette believes that we drivers have so many obstacles, stressors, and regulations to contend with that we really need someone who not only can negotiate well, but even more importantly, someone who actually cares about us and our livelihood.

She feels very strongly that none of us should try to represent ourselves when it comes to tickets, especially in California because not only are we dealing with astronomical fines and bail amounts, but the laws are constantly changing. California is increasing collection fines, making the appeals process harder, and

has made it mandatory to post bail, in full, for trial, just to name a few examples. You need someone who is up to date on all these issues in order to make the best deal possible.



*Antoinette Martinez, President
American Defense Lawyers*

California has always been, and will continue to be, a very complex place to operate within our industry, but Antoinette is constantly learning and searching for new ways to learn any and everything she can that will help her serve us to the best of her ability. Although she doesn't always turn down non-commercial drivers, her true focus is on the professionals. She always, first and foremost, fights to keep points off your record in a state that assigns points to some logbook violations as well as mechanical defects. The experience is here, where it matters most. Keeping your driving record clean is her goal.

Antoinette was raised by a family full of hard working, honest people who taught her by example that everybody has to work, it is the one thing we all have in common. She wanted to be an advocate for those same kinds of people, making a difference in the lives she touches and feels everyday that she is achieving that goal. She fights "the good fight" for us and gets much satisfaction doing so.

She is also very good at what she does, negotiating down charges that carry points into some that are zero points in order to keep us working. She is not only willing, but anxious to learn anything that will help her become a better advocate and is seriously interested in all aspects of our industry. She refers to us as the 'coal miners of the road' because without us, our country would be without the necessary things in life, yet we are treated so poorly by so many. She gets that.

When you need an attorney, you need one with a positive attitude and outlook, one who isn't afraid to challenge the law on your behalf. You need one who knows what she's doing, is intimately familiar with all the pertinent laws and facts pertaining to your case. You need someone who understands and who cares. In central California, that lawyer is Antoinette Martinez.

Antoinette says that drivers are the best clients she has ever had, that they appreciate her and that makes her feel very good.

Remember, Antoinette Martinez of American Defense Lawyers and she can be reached by email at callyourlawyer@msn.com or call her at 559-326-2076. I am sure you will be as impressed with her as I am. Although I hope you'll never need her services, she would be my first call if I did! And WIT members receive a discount!

By Heather Hogeland, WIT Member

