

Your Duties to Your Client as Defense Attorney...

1. Understand the Charges

- Familiarize yourself with all the charges brought against your client.
- Identify what each charge means and why it was brought against your client.
- Determine the effects your client's actions had on other people.

2. Build a Case

- Anticipate the argument the prosecution will use to convict your client; then, take each anticipated argument and find a way to dispute it.
- Be familiar with your client's motives (why your client did what he or she did), actions (what your client did), and reactions (how your client responded to the actions—was your client gleeful, remorseful, etc.) for each charge.
- Find evidence to support your case against the prosecution from the reading, current events involving similar situations, and/or any other source you may find.

3. Present Your Case before a Jury

- Know your arguments and supports so well that you can explain them to a jury with minimal use of your notes.
- Demonstrate that you believe your arguments, even if, personally, you find your client's actions unforgivable.
- Be confident in front of the jury, using gestures and movement to highlight your arguments.
- Speak in such a way that the jury understands the importance of each point, the reasons why the crimes were committed, and the reasons why your client deserves to be found "not guilty."