



# NATIONAL LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

## *Our History*

### ***“THE HERITAGE OF NLPA – THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE”***

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If you are reading this, you may be considering using ***National Legal Professional Associates*** to have our attorneys provide research and consulting assistance to your counsel in your case. As you ponder this important decision, we feel it important for you to know about the history of NLPA and the excellent “track record” that we have developed over the past two decades in assisting attorneys and their clients in the fight for justice. If you or a family member are currently involved in the defense of charges pending against you, or if you are fighting for justice on appeal or contemplating a post-conviction motion, we at NLPA want you to understand that we have great compassion for the situation in which you find yourself. As you will learn when you read this, **we** have walked in your shoes. For this reason, we want you to understand our background and how our firm can be of assistance to you at this most critical time.

#### ***Our Beginning***

In 1986, NLPA was formed out of the ashes of the personal and professional tragedy of its original founder, H. Wesley Robinson. After practicing law and then working in the field of investment banking, Mr. Robinson was prosecuted by federal authorities. He and his family were shocked and amazed about the workings of the federal justice system and learned first-hand what it feels like to be up against the awesome power of the government. He also learned first-hand what it was like to trust his defense attorneys, only to have them turn their back on him after the convictions were handed down despite the fact they had been paid large retainer fees. In the end, Mr. Robinson was forced to serve time in federal prison. While “down,” Mr. Robinson was able to research his case, discovering the countless mistakes that were made by his former attorneys. He worked for three years trying to correct these mistakes and ultimately gained an early release from prison.

It was upon Mr. Robinson's release that NLPA was formed. His personal experience with the justice system taught him that a defense attorney alone is often no match for the unlimited resources and powers of the federal government. He also learned first-hand how important it is to maintain communication with the most busy of attorneys and keep informed about their case. ***From this experience, NLPA was***

***created with the goal of providing defense attorneys and their clients with a source of high quality and aggressive research assistance at all phases of the criminal justice process.*** Mr. Robinson believed that by providing the defense with a team of research attorneys and paralegals to assist defense counsel, the playing field would become more even, giving the defense a fighting chance against the vast resources of the government.

### ***Our Philosophy***

It was from this philosophy that NLPA was born, and although there have been many changes since 1986, that philosophy continues to guide NLPA today. In the year 2000, NLPA was acquired by *Murray, Ratliff, & Robinson*—a group of lawyers with decades of combined experience in the area of state and federal criminal defense. Mr. Robinson no longer is the director for NLPA. However, we continue to engage him as a management consultant. Who better to rely on for advice than someone who is knowledgeable from first-hand experience?

Contrary to many rumors floating around, NLPA continues to be staffed by licensed attorneys and paralegal assistants. Over the years, our staff and experience have grown. As demonstrated by the enclosed list of recent victories, NLPA's track record over the past two decades is unparalleled. NLPA's success has not made us forget our humble origin, and the compassion for defendants and their families that Mr. Robinson brought to NLPA in the beginning has been passed on to the entire staff, making NLPA a research firm different from all others. This is the reason for NLPA's motto: ***"We listen, we care, we get results."***

### ***Who Are Our Critics?***

Over the years, despite (or probably because of) our excellent record of assisting in successfully fighting the government, NLPA has not been without its critics. Some prosecutors, lawyers and judges are offended by NLPA's existence and the fact Mr. Robinson, who is a disbarred attorney, consults to the research firm. The critics say, "How dare a disbarred attorney and former felon consult with attorneys!"

Recently, the Seventh Circuit issued an opinion in the case of *United States v. Johnson* criticizing Mr. Robinson and NLPA. Incredibly, the opinion held that an old NLPA informational brochure which criticized the federal justice system and gave suggestions on how to select an attorney constituted the "unauthorized practice of law." The court stated that for NLPA to provide critical information to a defendant or family member about the pitfalls of the criminal justice system and how to go about the business of finding a qualified, caring attorney to represent them somehow interfered with the attorney-client relationship. The court's opinion also referred to Mr. Robinson as a disbarred attorney in an apparent attempt to discredit the licensed attorneys employed by NLPA.

We have heard that these recent attacks have generated rumors about NLPA. Fortunately, the court's ruling has no impact on NLPA's ability to continue to provide research and consulting to lawyers. However, the decision is flat wrong and must be corrected. Despite the recent Court of Appeals opinion, NLPA will continue to "fight the good fight" and do all we can to assist defendants and their attorneys in their fight for justice. Currently NLPA is in the process of petitioning for a rehearing in the Seventh Circuit and then, if necessary, to the Supreme Court. This is now an issue much larger than NLPA. It now affects all criminal defendants and their Sixth Amendment rights—an issue we at NLPA will not let be ignored!

***What Next?***

Now that you know a little bit about the history and principles of NLPA, we urge you to carefully review the enclosed information about how we can assist with the pending criminal case. We encourage you to call us to ask any questions you may have about the services we can provide. *Remember: We are here to help in these most challenging of times as we know what it feels like to be wrongfully accused.*

**WE LISTEN, WE CARE, WE GET RESULTS!**

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