

SPEEDING TICKETS

It is always to your advantage to contest a criminal or traffic charge and hire a lawyer to represent you. In many instances, moving violations can result in points being added to your license. Accordingly, in addition to the fines for the traffic citation, you may also face future insurance increases and future license eligibility requirements. We go to court for you and in many cases can eliminate the fine and significantly reduce the gravity of the charges. If you do not defend yourself through counsel, the consequences are often serious. You may lose your license, be burdened with a criminal record for the rest of your life, face stiff fines and bear high future insurance costs. A single speeding ticket may cost up to \$1000 in added insurance costs.



You are innocent until proven guilty. The State must prove you are guilty beyond all reasonable doubt. Call us for an evaluation of your situation.

Attorney Jenkins is uniquely qualified to contest speeding tickets!

Most recently, Attorney Jenkins challenged the Pennsylvania State Police's use of the GHS Genesis radar gun system. At issue was the \$52 million dollars worth of tickets the Pennsylvania State Police handed out each year. Mr. Jenkins presented the testimony of Mr. Timothy Shingara, the Pennsylvania State Police's own radar expert (until they tried to fire him for testifying in my case). Mr. Shingara testified that the radar guns do not work properly due to interference created with the Crown Victoria Police Vehicles. The vehicles have about five different pieces of equipment plugged into their cigarette lighter. This overtaxes the alternator and produces a weezing sound that the radar gun interprets as speed. As a result, cell phones, snow flakes and even stationary objects may produce a reading. More importantly, the state police knew this. In fact, Decatur Electronics (the maker of the guns) offered to fix the guns for free. The police refused this offer because they felt "it would open up the floodgates of legal challenges". In other words, covering their behinds was more important than the rights of Pennsylvania citizens! Please see our interesting links for more information or goggle my name and "radar guns" for more information. The bottom line is that I took an oath of zealous advocacy for my clients. I will fight for your rights! I have so much data on this subject it could fill books. In short, when you hire me you get all of my knowledge and experience working to minimize and/or eliminate the ticket.



What Do We Do? How Much Does it Cost?

When appearing before a magistrate to contest a civil motor vehicle infraction such as a speeding ticket, our lawyers have extensive experience in each District Court where the matter is heard. As a result, the best possible result often happens: Not Responsible.

We can also successfully appeal before a Judge if this is required. We have over 10 years

experience in the individual District Court, and many court or law enforcement officials we have known since prior to entering law school. Attorney Jason A. Jenkins, Esquire also regularly appears in Court throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on behalf of motorists and he is respected by court officials for his advocacy and his persuasive skills.

The fee for hiring a lawyer to represent you at the magistrate hearing will easily exceed the cost of the ticket. However, you can expect that if found guilty of a speeding ticket your insurance rates over the three year period will exceed \$1000.00 for just one ticket.

Fees start at \$400. Fees for other traffic offenses, driver's license appeals, and related matters are dependent on the circumstances and will be discussed with Attorney Jenkins on a case by case basis.

Why? Fighting a straight speeding ticket is not easy. It requires experience and familiarity with the magistrate proceeding. A lawyer may travel to the court and present your case using his experience and training. This is not cheap. People wishing to fight these cases see the cost of hiring a lawyer in relation to the total situation. Three speeding fines in one year can result in a suspension of your driver's license, this along with high insurance costs and other considerations make fighting a ticket worth it. A single speeding ticket may cost you nearly \$500-\$1000 in insurance surcharges per year; a single ticket may therefore cost you \$3000 or more (insurance companies look back three years in calculating your rate).

What you should do if you're pulled over for speeding

If asked why you were pulled over, don't lie or make up some excuse - they hear this all the time; don't be a whiner. Since answering in the affirmative to speeding is paramount to self incrimination - that's why they ask you - kindly reply to the question with something like "with all do respect, doesn't answering your question open me up to self incrimination?" I have found that officers appreciate savvy drivers and you will find that you have shifted the burden back to the officer and have begun a dialogue *not* an argument!

Once you have been told what you already know, it pays to be familiar with the state/local statutes.

Ask if the officer would be willing to cite you with a reduced statute. In PA, for example, a PA3111A is a catch-all moving violation that carries no points.

Remember that you are not asking to be given a 'break' - they hear this all the time too. You are just asking for his/her consideration of citing a different statute with the traffic citation.

When your speeds are higher, suggest that you'll accept on the spot a citation for a PA3111A and a seat-belt violation [which carries no points in PA] even if you wear one. This way, everybody gets what they want. The officer has violations/fines he/she can take back to the barracks and you have a **reduced fine/penalty and no points!**

Note to **AAA members**

AAA provides its members reimbursement for legal fees related to defending violations of motor vehicle laws. Reimbursement will be made on these matters if you are adjudicated not guilty, the matter is dismissed, or you are found not responsible of the traffic violation. Reimbursement will not be made if you're convicted. Please speak to your AAA representative for further information about your eligibility. The attorney handling your case will provide detailed billing invoice upon request. Also note: AAA will only reimburse a percentage of the legal fee; contact AAA Member Services.