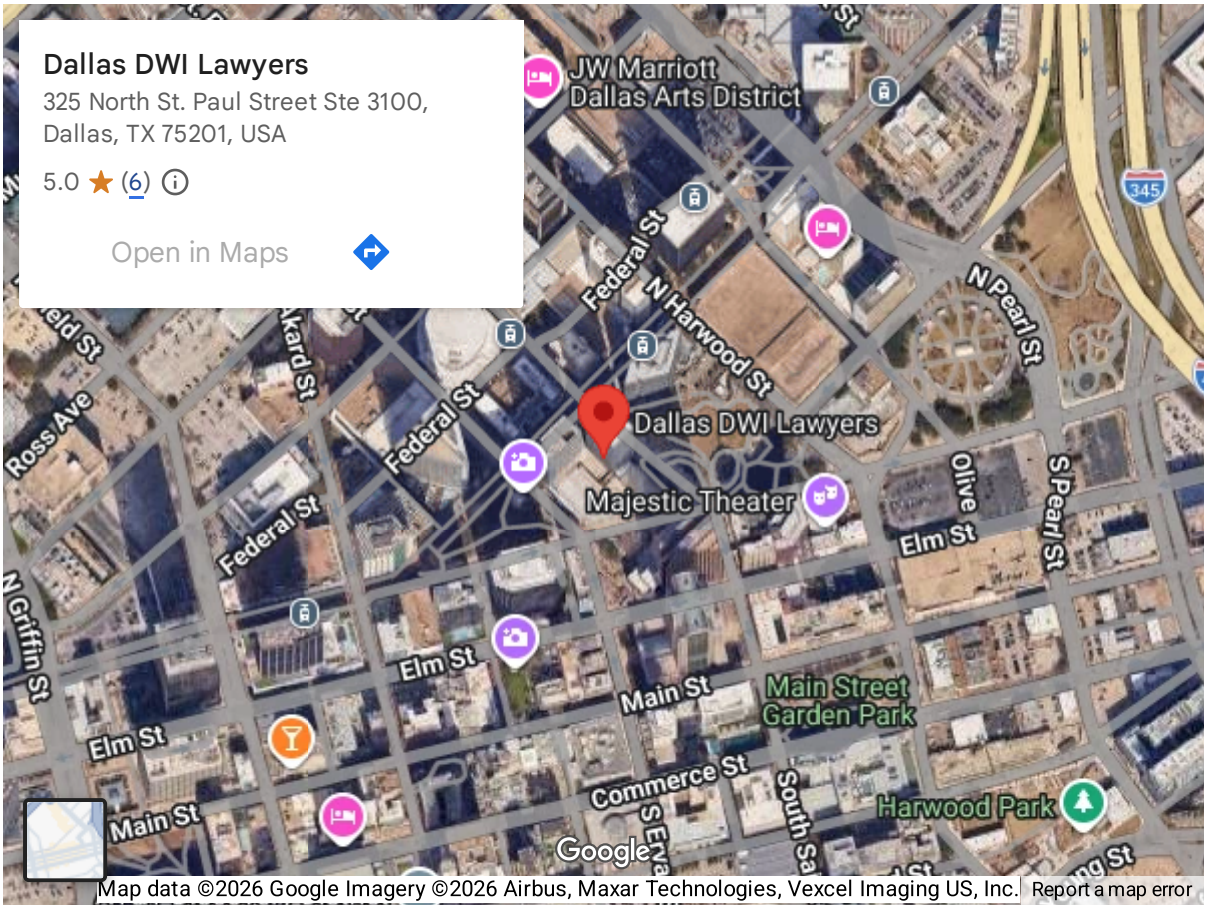
Kelvin M. Rodgers came to Texas DWI lawyers Dallas DWI defense by way of Louisiana. For more than five years, Rodgers worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Caddo Parish, prosecuting felony cases and DWI charges. Today Rodgers is a Senior Associate Attorney at Dallas DWI Lawyers, working from the firm's downtown office and defending people arrested across Dallas County, from the Medical District to Preston Hollow. Rodgers earned a BA in Criminal Justice from Grambling State and a JD from Southern University Law Center. Before joining the prosecutor's office, Rodgers served as a judicial law clerk in Shreveport, which meant time spent reading motions, researching legal questions and watching how judges decide them. Rodgers was licensed in Louisiana in 2009 and in Texas in 2020. That mix of work offers a view of a DWI case from three positions: the bench, the prosecution and the defense.

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A former DWI prosecutor tends to read an arrest file with a particular eye. The first question is usually about the stop. A traffic stop on the Dallas North Tollway or Northwest Highway needs reasonable suspicion, such as a traffic violation or driving behavior the officer can describe. The next question is whether the officer had probable cause to arrest. Under Texas Penal Code 49.04, the State can try to prove intoxication through a BAC of 0.08 or more or through loss of the normal use of mental or physical faculties, so the defense has to look at both. That means watching the video closely, comparing it with the written report, checking how the field sobriety tests were given and reviewing the breath or blood test records. Felony work is another part of that background. In Texas, a third DWI is a third-degree felony with a range of 2 to 10 years in prison, and a DWI with a passenger under 15 is a state jail felony. Intoxication assault and intoxication manslaughter carry heavier exposure still, and those cases are heard in the District Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building. Rodgers works alongside managing attorney Gary L. Medlin and Dallas office lead Jess Gambrell, both of whom also spent years as prosecutors, and the firm prepares each case as if it is going to trial. Arrests in University Park, Highland Park and around SMU are often made by local departments such as University Park PD or Highland Park DPS, and those cases still end up in Dallas County court. When you need a DWI defense attorney, call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331 at any hour for a free case evaluation. The office is at 325 North St Paul Street, Suite 3100, downtown.

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FAQ About

DWI Defense Attorney in Dallas How much is a DWI lawyer in Texas? Fees depend on whether the case is a first offense misdemeanor or a felony, whether there is an ALR hearing to fight, and whether the case goes to trial. Dallas DWI Lawyers starts with a free case evaluation so you can hear what your specific case involves before you commit to anything. Call or text (945) 403-4331 to set one up. What happens after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Most people arrested in Dallas are booked at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center and released on bond, often with conditions such as an ignition interlock. Misdemeanor DWI cases then move through the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building, while a separate license suspension case starts with DPS. The team at Dallas DWI Lawyers deals with both tracks from the first call. How long do I have to request an ALR hearing in Texas? The request must be made within 15 days of receiving notice of the license suspension, which is usually the day of the arrest. Missing that window means the suspension can take effect without a hearing. Dallas DWI Lawyers files ALR requests and represents drivers at the hearing, so call (945) 403-4331 as early as you can. Is a first DWI a felony in Texas? A standard first DWI is a Class B misdemeanor with a minimum of 72 hours and up to 180 days in jail, and a fine of up to $2,000. It becomes a Class A misdemeanor if a test shows 0.15 or more, and it can be a state jail felony if a passenger under 15 was in the car. Our downtown Dallas office on St Paul Street handles every level of these charges. Can a DWI be dismissed in Texas? Dismissals do happen, usually when the stop lacked reasonable suspicion, the arrest lacked probable cause, or the breath or blood evidence has problems. No lawyer can promise a dismissal, but Dallas DWI Lawyers prepares each case as if it is going to trial and reviews the video, reports and lab records for weak points. Should I refuse a breath test in Texas? Texas is an implied consent state, so a refusal can bring a license suspension of at least 180 days and can be mentioned at trial. Officers can also get a blood warrant, especially during Dallas County no refusal weekends. Every situation is different, so talk to a DWI defense attorney about how a refusal affects your own case. Can I still drive after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Usually yes, at least for a short time, because the suspension does not start right away and a timely ALR request can hold it off until the hearing. If a suspension does take effect, an occupational license may let you drive to work, school and essential errands. Dallas DWI Lawyers helps with both, starting with a call to (945) 403-4331. How long does a DWI stay on your record in Texas? A DWI conviction stays on your Texas criminal record permanently unless the law gives you a way to seal or clear it. Some first-offense cases may qualify for nondisclosure, and expunction is generally limited to dismissals, acquittals and no-bills. The firm can review your eligibility during a free case

evaluation. What makes a DWI a felony in Texas? A DWI becomes a felony with two prior intoxication convictions, a passenger under 15, a serious injury (intoxication assault) or a death (intoxication manslaughter). These carry prison ranges from 180 days in a state jail up to 20 years. Managing Attorney Gary L. Medlin has been Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1989. Do I need a lawyer for a first DWI in Texas? You are not required to have one, but a first DWI can still mean jail time, fines, a license suspension and a permanent record. A lawyer can challenge the stop and the testing, and may be able to pursue options such as deferred adjudication where the law allows it. Dallas DWI Lawyers answers calls and texts 24/7 at (945) 403-4331. Can a DWI be reduced to a lesser charge in Texas? In some cases, problems with the evidence lead prosecutors to offer a reduced charge such as obstructing a highway or reckless driving. Whether that is possible depends on the facts, the test results and your history. Attorneys at Dallas DWI Lawyers include former prosecutors who understand how those decisions get made in Dallas County. What is the difference between a DWI and a DUI in Texas? In Texas, DWI is the charge for adults who are intoxicated while driving, while DUI is a Class C charge for drivers under 21 with any detectable amount of alcohol. A young driver can face either charge depending on the evidence. Dallas DWI Lawyers defends underage drivers from SMU, University Park and across Dallas.