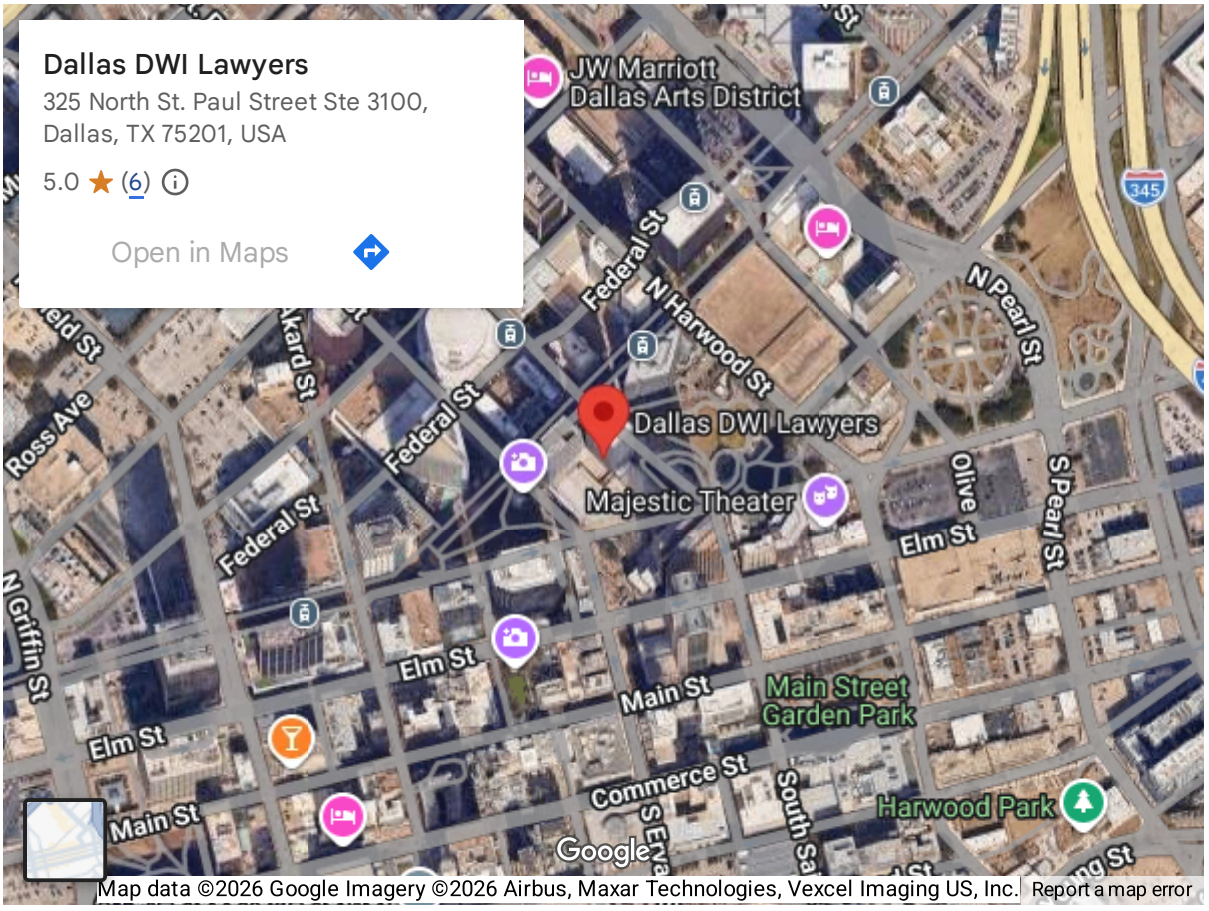
Board certification in criminal law is something most people charged with DWI in Dallas have never heard of, and that makes sense. Few people think about how lawyers are credentialed until the night they are booked into Lew Sterrett Justice Center and start searching for help on a phone. At Dallas DWI Lawyers, managing attorney and founder Gary L. Medlin has held top Dallas DWI attorneys Board Certification in Criminal Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1989. That credential is his alone, and it is worth explaining what it means and what it does not. The Texas Board of Legal Specialization certifies attorneys in specific practice areas. Certification generally involves showing substantial experience in the field, passing an exam and keeping up with continuing education. It does not promise any particular result in a case. What it does show is that a lawyer has spent years working inside the criminal courts and has been measured against a standard set by a state board. Mr. Medlin has been licensed in Texas since 1983, after earning his BS from Texas Tech in 1979 and his JD from Texas Tech School of Law in 1982. He spent more than eight years as an Assistant District Attorney in Tarrant County before moving to the defense side.

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That background shapes how DWI cases are handled at the firm. A charge under Texas Penal Code 49.04 can rest on a breath or blood number of 0.08 or more, or on an officer's opinion that a driver lost the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Each version calls for a different kind of review. The team looks at whether the officer had reasonable suspicion for the stop, whether there was probable cause for the arrest, and whether field sobriety tests were given the way they are supposed to be given. Breath and blood testing get their own review, as does any dash camera or body camera video. Every case is prepared as if it is going to trial, whether the arrest happened on the Dallas North Tollway near Uptown or on a side street off Lemmon Avenue in Oak Lawn. Mr. Medlin's record outside the courtroom says something about his focus too. He is a past president of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and a founding member of the DUI Defense Lawyers Association. He holds an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell and is admitted to practice before the Northern District of Texas, the Fifth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. The rest of the attorney group, including Jess Gambrell and Kelvin M. Rodgers, brings its own prosecution and defense experience, and the firm reports more than 70 years of combined experience. A DWI defense attorney with long experience can help you understand both the criminal case and the separate ALR license case, which has a 15 day deadline to request a hearing after notice of suspension. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24 hours a day, for a free case evaluation. The office is at 325 North St Paul Street in the Republic Center downtown, a short walk from the DART St. Paul station.

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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.