

Accountability Courts

A PROSECUTOR TAKES THE BENCH: PERSPECTIVES FROM A FORMER ADA

It's Only Tuesday for You

- ⦿ “For me, it's Tuesday”
- ⦿ It's somebody's life
- ⦿ Somebody's child
- ⦿ Somebody's freedom

Their Choices and Yours

- ⦿ The Prosecutor's Mantra
- ⦿ The credit and the blame do not often belong to you
- ⦿ How you know when you got it wrong

It's Not About You

- ⦿ Cannot be personally offended
- ⦿ It's not “you” at all
- ⦿ This is why we have a matrix

...But It's Your Responsibility

- ⦿ To follow the law
- ⦿ To set and maintain the tone
- ⦿ To make the decision

Follow the Law

- ⦿ Court is still court
- ⦿ Ex parte proceedings
- ⦿ Right to representation
- ⦿ Know and follow your role
- ⦿ Right to notice
- ⦿ Burden of proof
- ⦿ Determinate sentence

Set the Tone

- ⦿ Courtroom control starts with you
- ⦿ What I do, I give permission to others to do
- ⦿ What I allow becomes the new standard—and the new starting point

Tone: Respect

- ⦿ Show it
- ⦿ Require it

Tone:

- ⦿ More than one way to sabotage a staffing
- ⦿ Every role needs to be heard
- ⦿ No one dominates
- ⦿ Consensus when possible

What You Don't Know

- ⦿ Almost everything
- ⦿ Must rely on the team
- ⦿ Treatment's voice

The Weight of the Decision

- ⦿ Consensus is preferred, but doesn't control
- ⦿ Judicial decision-making authority is non-delegable
- ⦿ It's not a vote

I always knew...

- ...but I didn't know it was today.