

# About California Felony DUI

By: Tom Wallin

<http://www.californiaduiblog.com>

[California drunk-driving cases](#) fall into one of three categories felonies, misdemeanors, or wobblers (those that could be treated either as felonies or misdemeanors). No matter what you are charged with you should always consult a competent [California DUI Defense Lawyer](#). Typically, [California first-offense DUIs](#) are charged as misdemeanors. However, in certain circumstances, cases may be treated as felonies. **How a [California Driving Under the Influence case](#) is categorized depends on a number of factors, including prior DUI convictions and whether or not injuries or death of another person resulted from the drunken driving incident.**

## When is a California DUI a Felony?

Under [California's Vehicle Code Section 23153](#) "Any person who, while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, or under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and any drug, drives a vehicle and when so driving does any act forbidden by law or neglects any duty imposed by law in the driving of such vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than himself, is guilty of a felony." Criminal charges are mostly defined by the type of punishment that results with conviction. [Misdemeanor California DUIs](#) can result in up to one year in a county jail, while [felony California DUIs](#) can result in a year or more in a state prison.

There are some [California DUI cases](#) that are known as "wobblers." These [CA drunk driving cases](#) can be charged as either misdemeanors or felonies. If, for example, a [California DUI offender](#) is found to have caused injury to another but the injuries are relatively minor, then the case may be charged as a misdemeanor. However, if the injuries sustained by the other person are serious, then the [California DUI offender](#) can be charged with a felony, even if it the individual's first DUI offense. In addition to felony cases that arise from injury or death of another, [California Drunk Driving offenders](#) arrested for the fourth time for drunk driving within 10 years face felony charges even if no accident or injury occurred. [CA Drunk driving](#) that results in the death of another almost always will be treated as a felony. This type of DUI will fall under one of three categories -- vehicular homicide, vehicular manslaughter, or second-degree murder.

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## About Tom Wallin

Mr. Wallin is a previous Riverside County Public Defender who has represented hundreds of defendants in a wide variety of criminal matters, and successfully litigated drunk driving and driving under the influence cases throughout **Southern California**. Mr. Wallin is also an **active member of the [National College for DUI Defense](#)**, a select group of **DUI attorneys and lawyers** that are **dedicated to the defense of drunk driving cases**. In addition, DUI defense lawyer Thomas Wallin is also an **active member of the [National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#)**, a group of criminal defense attorneys, including **DUI lawyers**, who are dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals accused of crimes. As a **California Criminal Defense DUI Attorney**, Mr. Wallin is known for his fair yet aggressive representation, always working toward the **best possible outcome** for his clients. He has extensive experience in jury trials, pre-trial negotiations and discovery, and is skilled in counseling his clients about the criminal trial process. View our [Case Results](#) and [Testimonials](#).

Mr. Wallin's education and years of experience have helped him gain extensive familiarity with local court rules and procedures. Mr. Wallin graduated from [University of California at Irvine](#), **Cum Laude**. He went on to [Southwestern University School of Law](#) where he completed his law degree in a 23 month accelerated program, and was the recipient of the **Paul Wildman Scholarship**.

Mr. Wallin began his legal career practicing medical malpractice defense at Elliot Snyder & Reid, where he successfully represented many doctors in medical malpractice suits. Mr. Wallin also worked for the **Riverside County Public Defender**, where he handled hundreds of **driving under the influence** cases, with many successful results both as a Public Defender and a private [Riverside DUI attorney](#).

He is an outgoing personable attorney who is **well-respected** by judges, district attorneys, police officers, expert witnesses, and private defense lawyers around southern California. Mr. Wallin personally handles every case, and works hard to secure the best possible outcomes for his clients.

Mr. Wallin's DUI law firm handles DUI criminal and DUI DMV matters in the following cities and counties in Southern California:

Riverside County

San Bernardino County

Los Angeles County

Orange County

San Diego County