

# Monica Shepard Law, PLLC - Consumer Report

## WHY I DEFEND THE ACCUSED

I'm often asked why I defend people who have been accused of sometimes very, very bad things. They can't imagine how someone would want to help these people "get away" with their crimes. The concept of "innocent until proven guilty" apparently escapes them. Just like the masses....they cry for blood.

I'm not ambivalent. I don't like crime. I feel compassion and sorrow for victims of crime. But I also believe in and support the Constitution. Like it or not, the 6th amendment is a vital part of that great document. The 6th Amendment reads:

***"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence."***

Many claim to be "patriots" and respect the Constitution yet it appears they only want enforced those passages to which they agree. Due process is a nuisance (Casey Anthony, O.J. Simpson) unless they support the defendant (George Zimmerman). Like it or not, EVERYBODY deserves zealous representation.

Criminal defense is not about helping people get away with crime. It's about making sure that the rights granted in the Constitution are protected wholeheartedly. Making sure that criminal defendants get every protection that you and I are also guaranteed. Making sure the State meets their burden of proof before anyone loses their precious freedom.

I don't want to live in a place where justice is only afforded to the favored few. Neither should you.

I AM my brothers keepers. Deal with it.