

THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

Worksheet for Mark Geragos | How Celebrities Stay out of Jail (Episode 1)

"You never know what's going to happen -- especially when you're kind of the emergency room doctor of the law." -Mark Geragos

Defending the rights of people already found guilty by the court of public opinion is hard enough -- but doubly so when they also happen to be famous.

[*Mistrial: An Inside Look at How the Criminal Justice System Works...and Sometimes Doesn't*](#) co-author Mark Geragos is a criminal defense lawyer who has represented some of the highest profile defendants in the past 20 years, including Michael Jackson, Winona Ryder, Gary Condit, Susan McDougal, Chris Brown, and Scott Peterson. In [episode one](#), we get a rare peek into his world and how it works.

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Zealous Advocacy

Historian Evelyn Beatrice Hall made what she credited as a Voltairean principle famous: "I wholly disapprove of what you say -- and will defend to the death your right to say it."

The American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct says: "As advocate, a lawyer zealously asserts the client's position under the rules of the adversary system."

Mark Geragos knows what it's like to get flak for defending people society has already written off as guilty before they've even had a chance to make their case.

"I don't lose sleep over the people that I defend who I think are good for it. The cases I lose sleep over are the ones where I think the client is innocent. That, to me, is the real pressure," says Mark.

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For the sake of justice, would you be able to put aside your personal, unfavorable opinions about someone in order to defend their rights? If so, how would you justify it to those who might condemn you for doing so? If not, would your reason be based on emotion or a disagreement with the notion that accused people deserve fair representation?

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Do you think the criminal justice system is too harsh or too lenient? If you could be in charge of how justice is dispensed, what changes would you make to the current system? What would remain the same?



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Fluid Battle Plans

Helmuth von Moltke the Elder once said that "no plan of operations extends with any certainty beyond the first contact with the main hostile force." Mark agrees, and says the most important thing to keep in mind is to remain fluid -- capable of adapting to the changing tides of battle in the courtroom.

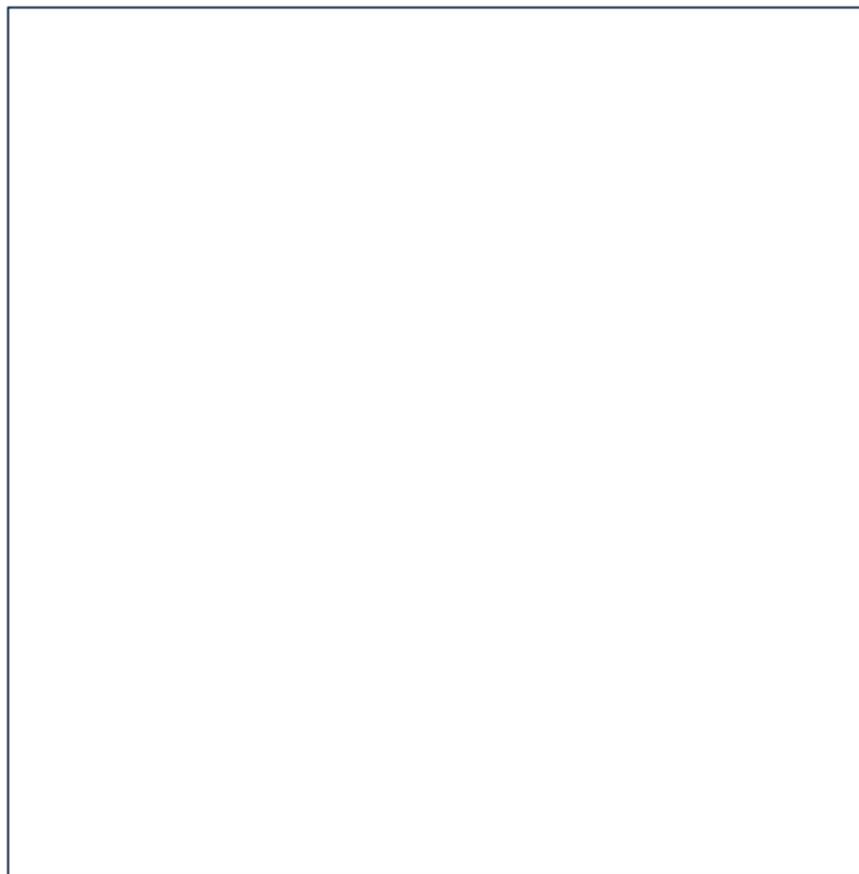
No matter how well you think you know the opposition, no matter if you've appeared before the same judge numerous times, chances are pretty good you'll encounter variables that will throw you off your game if you're not expecting the unexpected.

"The mark of a true trial lawyer is when you can ask a question you don't know the answer to and you get the answer you want," says Mark.

Of course, expecting the unexpected is wise no matter what line of work you're in or what debates you plan on having in your everyday life.

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Do you tend to win or lose arguments? Do you prepare for them ahead of time, or do you just wing it? What constitutes a battle plan, and how far do you usually deviate from it in the heat of an actual debate?



Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here](#).

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About



Join Jordan Harbinger (critically acclaimed host, formerly of The Art of Charm) as we get deep into the untapped wisdom of the world's top performers -- from legendary musicians to intelligence operatives, iconoclastic writers to visionary change-makers.

We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth -- and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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