
VIRGINIA CRIMINAL PRACTICE REVIEW · 2025 · SAMPLE — FICTIONAL
ATTORNEY, ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES

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A verified data portrait of a Chesapeake defense practice — every case traceable to a public court record. This sample shows the exact format of a real review, with fictional figures.

Sample edition · 412 cases of record analyzed, CY2025 · case-number appendix ships with real reviews

SAMPLE — FICTIONAL FIGURES

CONTENTS

In this review

- 01** Executive summary
 - 02** The record, made whole
 - 03** Venue scorecard
 - 04** Charge scorecard
 - 05** Modal outcomes by venue
 - 06** Who you face – the officers in your cases
 - 07** Sentencing outcomes
 - 08** Case pacing
 - 09** Stats cleared for your marketing
 - 10** What the record supports
 - 11** Method, verification & limits
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01 — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What your 2025 filings say

Your record stands at **412 cases across 9 jurisdictions** – the top 2% of Virginia's 17,560 private defense attorneys by volume. In four of your five biggest venues your dismissal rate beats the courthouse norm, and your DUI reduction rate runs well above the state's.

412 **Cases of record across 9 jurisdictions.** Seven clerk renderings of your name found and merged – your public footprint showed only a slice of this.

41% **Chesapeake dismissed/nolle rate vs 26% court-wide** – a 15-point edge in your home courthouse, on 184 cases.

54% **Of your DUI charges were reduced** against a 25% statewide rate – the strongest charge line in your record.

88% **Of district convictions carried no active time** (94 of 107) – four points above the statewide private-counsel norm.

02 — THE RECORD, MADE WHOLE

Seven spellings, one practice

Virginia's court clerks logged your 2025 work under seven renderings — **Whitfield, M; Whitfield, Marcus; Whitfield, Marcus T**; two typo forms; a hyphenated variant; and your firm name standing as counsel of record. Any single one understates your practice. This review merges all seven under clerk-of-record matching; every number that follows is computed on the complete merged record.

412 Charges of record, CY2025	9 Jurisdictions appeared in	351 / 61 District / circuit split
34.7% Dismissed or nolle prossed	24.5% Reduced at disposition	139 Convicted counts (all tiers)

03 — VENUE SCORECARD

Four of your five biggest venues, you beat the courthouse

VENUE	YOUR CASES	YOUR DISMISSED/NOLLE	COURTHOUSE NORM	EDGE
Chesapeake	184	41%	26%	+15
Virginia Beach	96	33%	24%	+9
Norfolk	58	36%	28%	+8
Suffolk	41	30%	23%	+7
Portsmouth	33	22%	27%	-5
Dismissed/nolle share of cases of record, CY2025, per venue. Norm = all defendants, all counsel types, same venue and year.				

Portsmouth (22% vs 27%) is the one below-the-line venue. Honest number, worth knowing — a credible record includes it.

04 — CHARGE SCORECARD

Where the record is strong — and where it is honest

CHARGE CATEGORY	CASES	DISMISSED (YOU / VA)	REDUCED (YOU / VA)
DUI / DWI	118	9% / 10%	54% / 25%
Reckless driving	84	17% / 20%	52% / 41%
Assault & battery	61	57% / 51%	5% / 3%
Larceny / theft	49	45% / 38%	12% / 8%
Drug possession	44	18% / 21%	9% / 10%
Cases of record, n≥10 categories. "VA" = statewide all-counsel rate, same category and year.			

The strong lines: DUI reductions at more than twice the state rate, reckless well above it, assault dismissals above the norm.

The honest lines: drug possession runs at the state norms — included because a credible record includes them.

05 — MODAL OUTCOMES

The most common ending, venue by venue

VENUE	MODAL OUTCOME OF YOUR CASES	COUNT
Chesapeake	Charge amended, then plea to the lesser	71 of 184
Virginia Beach	Guilty plea (negotiated)	38 of 96
Norfolk	Nolle prosequi	19 of 58
Suffolk	Guilty plea (negotiated)	17 of 41
Cases of record, CY2025. In circuit court: 21 negotiated pleas against 4 verdicts (2 acquittals).		

The Chesapeake row is the shape of your practice: the amendment is the fight, and you win it more often than the courthouse does.

06 — WHO YOU FACE

The officers in your cases

Case-level source records name the charging officer in 322 of your 412 cases. The concentrations, with your outcomes against each:

OFFICER	VENUE	ENCOUNTERS	DISMISSED	REDUCED
Tpr. R. Halloran	Chesapeake	31	4	19
Ofc. M. Lang	Chesapeake	17	9	3
Ofc. D. Pruitt	Va. Beach	12	1	2
Ofc. S. Vance	Norfolk	9	4	2
Officers in 8+ of your 2025 cases. Your outcomes only — not the officer's overall record.				

Two patterns worth weighing at intake: **Lang matters dismiss at better than one in two** — his files have contested well. **Pruitt matters have been plea-posture** — one dismissal in twelve encounters is information for fee quotes and client expectations.

07 — SENTENCING OUTCOMES

When conviction comes, what does it cost?

88% District convictions, no active time (94 of 107)	11 days Average active sentence when imposed, district tier	19 of 32 Circuit felony convictions with no active time
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The district figure sits four points above the statewide private-counsel norm (84%). The circuit tier reflects the felony book: most convicted counts carried no active time, and where time came it averaged eleven months — consistent with the seriousness of the charges there. Reported for your intelligence; the marketing-cleared stats live in §9.

08 — CASE PACING

Your cases take longer — and the record suggests why

VENUE	YOUR MEDIAN DAYS TO DISPOSITION	VENUE MEDIAN
Chesapeake	104	52
Virginia Beach	97	58
Norfolk	121	61

Cases with disposition dates, CY2025, vs all-case venue medians.

Your cases run roughly twice the venue median. Two-sided reading: contested defense takes longer than volume pleading — continuances, motions, and negotiation are where dismissals and reductions tend to come from — and your edges coexist with this pacing. It is also a client-expectation number.

09 — CLEARED FOR MARKETING

Three stats you can stand behind

STAT ONE — STANDING

"412 Virginia cases of record in 2025 across 9 jurisdictions — among the top 2% of Virginia private defense attorneys by volume."

Source: Virginia district & circuit court public records, CY2025, VirginiaCourtFile.

STAT TWO — VENUE

"In Chesapeake in 2025, 41% of his cases of record were dismissed or not prosecuted — the court-wide rate was 26%."

184 cases · Past results do not predict outcomes in any individual case.

STAT THREE — THE CHARGE CLIENTS SEARCH FOR

"More than half of his 2025 DUI charges were reduced — against a 25% statewide rate."

118 cases · Virginia public court records, CY2025.

Each is framed for Virginia RPC 7.1 — factual, dated, sourced. Real reviews: confirm final wording with your own bar guidance before publication.

10 — WHAT THE RECORD SUPPORTS

Where the data has an opinion

You know the practice; we only know the record. Four places where it speaks clearly — what to do with each is entirely your call.

- 1 **Chesapeake is the strongest verifiable claim in this review** — a 15-point home-courthouse edge on 184 cases, and it survives any recompute.
- 2 **DUI is the signature line** — reductions at twice the state rate on triple-digit volume is as strong as charge records get.
- 3 **The Pruitt pattern is intake information** — one dismissal in twelve encounters suggests plea-posture pricing on those files.
- 4 **Your public footprint is split seven ways** — the merged record in this review is the complete version, and the one worth pointing clients to.

11 — METHOD, VERIFICATION & LIMITS

How these numbers were built — and how to check them

- **THIS IS A SAMPLE.** Marcus T. Whitfield is fictional and every figure on these pages is illustrative. The format, sections, verification standard, and appendix are exactly what a real review delivers.
- **Source (real reviews).** Virginia Online Case Information System (CIS) public records, district and circuit courts, cases filed in calendar year 2025, as compiled by VirginiaCourtFile.
- **Verification standard.** Only counsel-of-record entries unambiguously identifying the attorney are counted; ambiguous entries are excluded until confirmed, and the review says so.
- **Appendix.** Real reviews ship with a case-number appendix — every counted case, checkable against Virginia's public system.
- **Denominators.** Rates use cases of record; dismissed/nolle combines judicial dismissal and nolle prosequi; courthouse norms are all-defendant, all-counsel rates in the same venue and year.
- **Limits.** Historical patterns do not predict any individual outcome. Marketing use limited to cleared stats pending your own bar guidance.

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