

People v. Anonymous (Ontario Co., 4/7/22).

MR. CORLETTA ASSISTS SERIAL DRUNK DRIVER IN SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATION

The practice of law becomes extremely frustrating when people don't listen. Such was the case in **People v. Anonymous** (Ontario Co., 4/22).

In that case, Mr. Corletta obtained a favorable plea agreement for his client, who had multiple drunk driving convictions going back to the 1970s. Mr. Corletta obtained a minimum sentence on a new Driving While Intoxicated charge, and the client was ultimately relicensed.

However, the client was also subjected to New York's mandatory Ignition Interlock law. The client could not stand prosperity, and obtained **3** separate Ignition Interlock violations within the space of about one month.

The client was summoned back to Court by the Judge for a violation of their Conditional Discharge. The Court was obviously perturbed. The Court could have revoked Defendant's original sentence and sentenced the client to jail on the 3 violations.

Acting quickly, Mr. Corletta directed the client to enroll in alcohol treatment and provide proof thereof. The client initially resisted, but Mr. Corletta laid down the law. Mr. Corletta pointed out to the Court that the client was enrolled in treatment, and offered to make attendance in treatment a part of his client's sentence, and for the Court to monitor it.

The District Attorney asked that the client be immediately taken into custody. Mr. Corletta beat back that request by demonstrating his client entered treatment and offered to keep the Court up dated on progress.

The Court gave the client a stern warning and accepted Mr. Corletta's proposal, denying the District Attorney's request to take the client into custody, which would have resulted in a loss of employment.

Following Court, Mr. Corletta gave the client another stern talking to and advised the client how close they came to going to jail. The client was directed to complete treatment and follow all recommendations, if they wanted to stay out of jail and/or off probation, and provide Mr. Corletta with regular updates to give to the Court.

Given the circumstances, Mr. Corletta performed a virtual miracle on behalf of this client. Many lawyers would not have pushed that hard for a client who seemingly didn't want to help themselves.