

Cowboy Law Group Addresses Surge in Federal Trafficking Defense Cases Amid Record Texas Enforcement

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Cowboy Law Group, a criminal defense firm based in The Woodlands, Texas, reports unprecedented demand for federal trafficking defense representation as FBI Houston's 2025 Year in Review documented more than 800 arrests, 110 convictions, and 230 indictments in a single year. The firm notes that Texas defendants facing federal drug or human trafficking charges confront mandatory minimum sentences in an enforcement environment that has intensified dramatically following the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security's September Surge operation, which resulted in 3,266 arrests nationwide in just 43 days.

The Houston Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force alone arrested more than 286 individuals on trafficking-related charges in 2025, placing Texas at the center of the nation's most active federal criminal enforcement environment. On April 29, 2026, the DEA and Homeland Security Task Force Houston announced that Houston men had been sentenced to federal prison following an investigation for trafficking methamphetamine and fentanyl in the Eastern District of Texas, representing one of multiple active federal trafficking prosecutions unsealed in Houston-area federal courts this year.

Federal drug trafficking charges under 21 U.S.C. § 841 carry mandatory minimum sentences of five years for first offenses involving threshold quantities of controlled substances, rising to 10 years for larger quantities. The federal system provides no parole, with sentence reductions available only through cooperation, safety valve provisions, or successful legal challenges. Federal human trafficking charges under 18 U.S.C. § 1591 carry mandatory minimums of 15 years to life when a minor is involved, and 10 years to life when force, fraud, or coercion is proven.

"The combination of FBI Houston's 800-plus annual arrests, mandatory minimum sentencing, and the administration's stated commitment to maximum prosecution means defendants indicted on federal trafficking charges face a legal system structured to produce convictions," stated Chris H. Warren, Attorney at Cowboy Law Group. "Federal trafficking investigations often involve electronic surveillance, confidential informants, and extended undercover operations. This evidence must be challenged before trial, not during it. The first 48 hours after federal contact represent the most legally critical period in any trafficking investigation."

Texas federal courts consistently rank among the five busiest in the country for criminal trafficking cases, with the Southern District of Texas handling one of the highest volumes of federal criminal prosecutions nationally. The state's border proximity and role as a distribution hub have made it a primary target for federal trafficking enforcement.

Cowboy Law Group Trafficking Defense Lawyer services focus on challenging evidence at the earliest possible stage, before grand jury proceedings, before arraignment, and before the prosecution locks in a charging theory that maximizes mandatory minimum exposure. The firm's attorneys, including Chris H. Warren, Brian C. Burns, and J. Paxton Adams, bring over 20 years of courtroom experience to federal trafficking cases.

The firm emphasizes that federal trafficking charges in Texas are not resolved the same way state charges are. The absence of parole in the federal system and mandatory minimums triggered by drug quantity or victim characteristics that prosecutors control through charging decisions create a fundamentally different legal landscape for defendants.

Cowboy Law Group is a criminal defense law firm representing individuals facing federal and state criminal charges throughout the Houston metro area and statewide Texas. The firm handles federal trafficking charges, federal drug charges, federal gun charges, federal smuggling defense, and state criminal defense

matters. As a Trafficking Defense Lawyer, the firm offers free case reviews and maintains 24-hour availability for clients facing active federal investigations or charges.

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Cowboy Law Group

Cowboy Law Group offers expert criminal and juvenile defense in Texas, combining legal expertise with dedicated representation to protect clients' rights.

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