

My First Trial: Lessons I Learned in a Pelican Bay Prison Case

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An article by Matthew Benedetto, published by *California Lawyer*, recounts life and legal lessons he learned during his first trial.

I was 16-years-old when, like much of the nation, I became transfixed by the O.J. Simpson criminal trial. I knew then I wanted to be a lawyer. Fast forward 20 years to a federal courtroom in San Francisco where I represented a prisoner, Jesse Perez, pro bono in a civil rights case against prison guards at the super-max Pelican Bay State Prison for retaliating against him in violation of the First Amendment. [Read the full article](#)

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