Cincy **Leading Lawyers** 2009

Joseph B. Suhre IV

Not all DUI cases are alike. That's where Joe Suhre comes in.

"My police training and experience provide me with a unique perspective when defending a DUI case," Suhre notes. "I try to use my law enforcement background to work for my clients."

Suhre observes that finding fault in the State's case is important. "Preparations are key, of course," and those preparations include investigations and background. Suhre adds that, under current Ohio law, a DUI conviction can never be expunged, making a challenge to any DUI arrest critical. Such a conviction also makes a person ineligible for an expungement of any other offense on their record for the rest of their life, the attorney points out. Even a single DUI conviction can interfere with your ability to travel internationally, especially in Canada.

Deadlines are very critical in Ohio DUI cases, he says. "You have only 30 days from the arraignment to file an appeal [of the Administrative License Suspension] ... and you have only 35 days from arraignment to file a motion to suppress evidence."

Suhre believes defending a DUI case involves the development of a defense against the opinion of the arresting officer, and defense against a blood alcohol test, or the refusal to take such a test. There are complex scientific issues involved, dealing with breath testing, blood testing and urine testing. The reliability of some portable breathalzyer machines, in particular, is increasingly being questioned.

Whatever the case, Suhre says, "thorough and proper investigation makes for a thorough court case."

Suhre, who graduated from Xavier University with a degree in criminal justice and the University of Cincinnati with his J.D., has been named in *Cincy* magazine's Leading Lawyer, in the field of DUI defense for 2006, 2007 and 2008. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, Cincinnati Bar Association, Ohio Association for Justice (formerly the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers), and the Greater Cincinnati Criminal Defense Association.



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PRACTICE AREA

DUI