

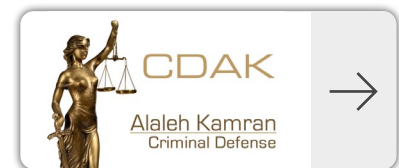


**"Once I saw the 'bible' and I went through it, I realized 'Oh my God, this is amazing!' It does change the way you practice criminal defense."**

*– Alaleh Kamran  
Law Office of Alaleh Kamran, Encino*

## **CEB Stories:**

Alaleh Kamran  
Law Office of Alaleh Kamran



### **The 'Crim Law Bible': Great Authority, Great Law Practice**

**California Criminal Law Procedure and Practice** (CCLPP, or the "crim law bible") has been the first place to go for Alaleh Kamran since she became a criminal defense attorney in 1992.

“ I’ve had it since I passed the bar in 1992. We call it ‘the bible’ in the office. Any time we have an issue and we need to troubleshoot, the first place we go is ‘the bible.’”

### **The Story**

Even before Alaleh Kamran became an attorney, she worked in criminal law, but back then it was on the prosecutorial side, at the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. By the time she passed the bar, she already had quite a bit of criminal law experience. In the 28 years since, she’s handled a wide variety of state and federal and cases, and is now admitted into several federal jurisdictions.

“There are always issues that pop up in court. The best thing is to have your ‘criminal law bible,’ because you can take a 2-minute recess: ‘Your honor, can I have a minute to quickly research this matter?’ You go to the attorney room and flip open the ‘bible,’ so you can at least find your starting point to know how you’re going to argue this point.”

“There are a couple of books I use and have religiously renewed every year. CCLPP is one of them. The other is CEB’s **Search and Seizure**. As a defense attorney, you need to renew them every year, or else you’re going to fall out of favor with the gods.”

“First of all, it carries great respect. When you quote from it, the court is not going to sit there and question whether you have the law right or not. And then, because it is so detailed and so up-to-date, you know when you open your mouth you are not just shooting from the hip. You have credibility.”

### The Door to Action

**California Criminal Law Procedure and Practice** was recommended to Kamran when she first became an attorney, and she has relied on it for her thriving practice ever since.

- Because law school teaches principles, Kamran “didn’t know how to be a criminal defense attorney” when she first began practicing. Her fellow attorneys told her “you need to get yourself ‘the bible,’” she ordered it, and became an instant convert.
- Today, when an issue she hasn’t encountered before comes up, Kamran goes first to **California Criminal Law Procedure and Practice**. It’s “the door” to “figuring out what you need and what needs to be done.”
- In chambers or in court, having her copy with her helps Kamran when things get complicated and she needs answers fast, whether on issues of bail or sentencing, enhancements or allegations, multiple counts, or structured deals with the district attorney’s office.

### Every Year a New Copy

Because criminal law in California is so dynamic, Kamran renews her copy of CCLPP every year—but she hangs on to the old copies too. “I’m very protective of my previous years’ editions, which I dog-ear with ferocity. I keep them,” she says.

### Commands Respect

Kamran likes to think of **California Criminal Law Procedure and Practice** as a springboard to becoming not just a great attorney, but a fantastic one.

- She uses CCLPP as the starting point for doing deep research and building strong cases.
- She uses it for training staff; she uses it for teaching new attorneys the procedural and substantive ways to proceed through a case.
- In her office, in the jail, and in court, Alaleh Kamran relies on “the bible’s” authority and accuracy as a key tool to building her own successful career in criminal law.