



## Some of DefenseMap.com's Compelling Benefits for the Criminal Justice System

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DefenseMap.com's overwhelming benefits to accused persons and their constitutional right to present their complete defenses (see [A Comprehensive Introduction to DefenseMap.com](#)) can camouflage an equally important consideration: this tool's compelling benefits to the criminal justice system itself.

Here are three of those benefits.

First, as shown at pages 3-8 of [The Constitutional Case for Incarcerated Persons' Access to DefenseMap.com](#), the prosecution and police have a constitutional obligation to provide the defense with both (a) a balance of discovery forces with the prosecution and police in discovery, *Wardius v. Oregon*, 412 U.S. 470, 93 S.Ct. 2208, 37 L.Ed.2d 82 (1973), and (b) affirmative assistance in the "meaningful opportunity to present a complete defense" under *California v. Trombetta*, 467 U.S. 479, 485, 104 S.Ct. 2528, 81 L.Ed.2d 413 (1984) and *Pennsylvania v. Ritchie*, 480 U.S. 39, 56, 107 S.Ct. 989, 94 L.Ed.2d 40 (1987). If one assumes (as we do) that most prosecutors, police, and courts take such constitutional obligations seriously, at least once pointed out, [DefenseMap.com](#) should be a matter of wholehearted bipartisan support on this score alone.

Second, it serves the cause of justice overall, including the interests of prosecutors and police, when defenses are fully, thoughtfully, and factually presented. Defense Maps are proving an unprecedented aid in overcoming obstacles to the collection and presentation of crucial accurate information about accused persons' cases and backstories. See [A Comprehensive Introduction to DefenseMap.com](#) the many benefits of the unprecedented breadth of information in these Defense Maps.

Finally, Defense Maps are vital not just to the legal defense of individuals (including innocent ones) but to the ability of accused persons to examine issues in their lives as part of becoming better and more reliable citizens. The [Sample Maps](#) on [DefenseMap.com](#) help to demonstrate the kind of self-improvement opportunities and incentives for good inhering in this resource. It being an undisputed and central goal of the criminal justice system to protect safety, the opportunity provided by this tool for inmates to examine and improve their lives should, and actually will, be enthusiastically embraced by conscientious prosecutors, police, and corrections institutions.

If the criminal justice system's goals indeed include (1) protecting Due Process guarantees like those in *Wardius*, *Trombetta*, and *Ritchie*, (2) to giving accused persons some sliver of the discovery lavished on prosecutors and police, and (3) affording access to a resource that can promote self-improvement and the desire of more inmates to honestly prove themselves worthy of earlier release, then we think that system should actually race to implement [DefenseMap.com](#) for its incarcerated citizens.