

Stephen Williamson:

We almost always bring claims under both state and federal law. New York State has several laws that allow for claims of false arrest and excessive force. But the federal law also has a section known as 1983, which also allows us to bring claims for false arrest and excessive force. And we bring both the state and the federal claims together. Why do we do that? Because it makes the case stronger and because the federal law allows for additional elements of the claims that state law may not allow or may be more difficult under state law, and there are additional remedies under federal law that don't exist under state law.