

Kathleen S. Wood

LE-101

12/07/2020

## Beneficial Plea Bargaining

The benefit of plea bargains are beneficial to both the court system and the defendant. Plea bargaining (plea negotiation), can be known to be one of the most controversial and misunderstood facets of the U.S. Criminal Justice System. The plea bargain is a negotiation between a prosecutor and a defense attorney in which they seek to arrive at a mutually satisfactory disposition of a case without going to trial, making it beneficial for both parties. In some jurisdictions, it requires the approval of the victim, and in all jurisdictions plea bargains require approval of the judge. This only occurs when the prosecutor determines that the conviction on the original charge is unlikely. Then reducing the seriousness of the original charge for the pleading guilty to a charge that is less serious. There are in total four different types of plea bargains, (1) reducing the seriousness of the charge, (2) reducing the number of charges or counts, (3) reducing the sentence, and (4) no recommendation regarding sentence. Although, defendants in deferral criminal cases are also overwhelmingly more likely to enter guilty pleas rather than go to trial, regardless of offense charged. In conclusion, plea bargains benefit the defendant and the court system because they avoid going and getting a sentence in trial. There are multiple plea bargains, and the pleas need to ultimately be approved by a judge in all jurisdictions.