



CHARLES BELK, FROM HANDCUFF CURBSIDE TO M.A.D. (MAKING A DIFFERENCE)

On August 22, 2014, Hollywood producer and entertainment marketing executive, Charles Belk, was wrongfully arrested in greater Los Angeles for mistaken identity. He was handcuffed and detained on a busy Los Angeles street for 45 minutes, taken to the police station, booked, denied a phone call, denied being told his charges, denied immediate access to his attorney, jailed for six hours for Armed Bank Robbery and Accessory to Armed Robbery and held under a \$100,000 bail. Although he was released later that night and given a Certificate of Detention which indicated he was detained and not arrested, an arrest record appeared on the Sheriff's website and a state legal process had to be followed to get the arrest record sealed and destroyed

A year later, Charles Belk, has gone from handcuffed curbside to M.A.D. -- Making A Difference, by inspiring the implementation of new laws across the country as a result of his wrongful arrest. Since his arrest, Belk launched a nationwide effort, through the non-profit he founded (fittingthedescription.org) and his #AutoErase Initiative, which calls for the automatic erasing of an arrest record of an innocent person that was wrongfully arrest for mistaken identity or identity theft. In only a year and a half, he has successfully helped usher in two new state laws (North Carolina, Illinois) based on the #AutoErase Initiative, and currently has legislation (aka the "Belk Bill") that has been introduced in nine other states (Rhode Island, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Michigan, Tennessee, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri), with four additional state legislators (Connecticut, Ohio, Wisconsin, Louisiana) committed to introduce legislation by mid-March 2016).

A noted speaker, Charles Belk was born and raised in Durham, NC. He is a producer at and president of I Will Make You a Star Productions, a Los Angeles-based social/digital marketing and production company. He is also founder and executive director of Fitting The Description Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to help build awareness of wrongful detentions and arrests that occur each day because an individual "fit the description." Charles Belk is a graduate of Durham Hillside High School. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California, an MBA from Indiana University, and an Executive Leadership Certificate from Harvard Business School.