



S. O. B. E. R.

DWI COURTS AND THE TRANSFORMATION FROM ADDICTION TO RECOVERY

A close-up, profile view of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket over a red shirt. He is blowing into a black and white breathalyzer device. The background is a blurred interior of a car, showing the window and door frame.

S . O . B . E . R .

22 Minutes | USA | 2021

Over 1.5 million people are arrested every year in the United States of America for DWI offenses. *S.O.B.E.R. DWI Courts and the Transformation from Addiction to Recovery* is a film that chronicles how one court decided to take a different approach to the problem.

[WATCH TRAILER](#)

SYNOPSIS (LONG)

Over 1.5 million people are arrested every year in the United States of America for DWI offenses. *S.O.B.E.R. DWI Courts and the Transformation from Addiction to Recovery* is a film that chronicles how one court decided to take a different approach to the problem.

Issouf Simpore is an immigrant living in the United States of America struggling with adapting to a new country and a new culture while battling an ongoing substance abuse addiction. When he finds himself on the wrong side of the law he is presented with a choice: a future in prison or attending Texas's DWI Court aimed at reducing recidivism by allowing individuals to go through an intense rehabilitation program. His decision will change his life forever.

This is his story.



BACKGROUND

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (responsibility.org) leads the fight to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking and promotes responsible decision-making regarding beverage alcohol. Supported by nine of America's distillers who lead with a strong commitment to responsibility, Responsibility.org's distinguished National Advisory Board and our partners at the national and local level help them to reach a broad audience, guiding a lifetime of conversations about alcohol responsibility across all 50 U.S. states and in our nation's capital.

Responsibility.org has collaborated with key partners in the fields of traffic safety, criminal justice, and supervision and treatment to eliminate impaired driving through best practices with a focus on high-risk impaired drivers. They believe DWI Courts are one of the potential solutions to the ongoing crisis and by sharing Issouf's story it will serve as a platform to open up the discussion about the use and expansion of DWI Courts.

DWI Courts are specialized, comprehensive court programs that provide a structure of appropriate treatment, supervision, and accountability. A team approach is utilized as judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, law enforcement, probation officers, treatment practitioners, and other involved stakeholders work together with court participants. These courts are designed to change behavior among the high risk/high need drunk driver population and thus, reduce recidivism. The long-lasting results that are achieved through participation in these courts ultimately save lives.

FILMMAKERS

JUSTIN JARRETT DIRECTOR

Justin Jarrett is an award-winning writer, director and entrepreneur based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

From feature-length documentaries to commercial work and television shows, Justin is a creative chameleon whose imaginative storytelling style has allowed him to successfully weave in and out of genres for more than a decade.

Through his production company's Projects That Matter Initiative, Justin has been collaborating with non-profit organizations to create content that could inspire change within the world.



TRAVIS CAPACETE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

As an award-winning Producer and Editor with more than a decade of experience under his belt, Travis has worked with media powerhouses NFL Films, Bravo, NBC, and Warner Brothers while overseeing the business operations for his own production company, JTWO, where he produces projects ranging from feature-length documentaries to television shows.



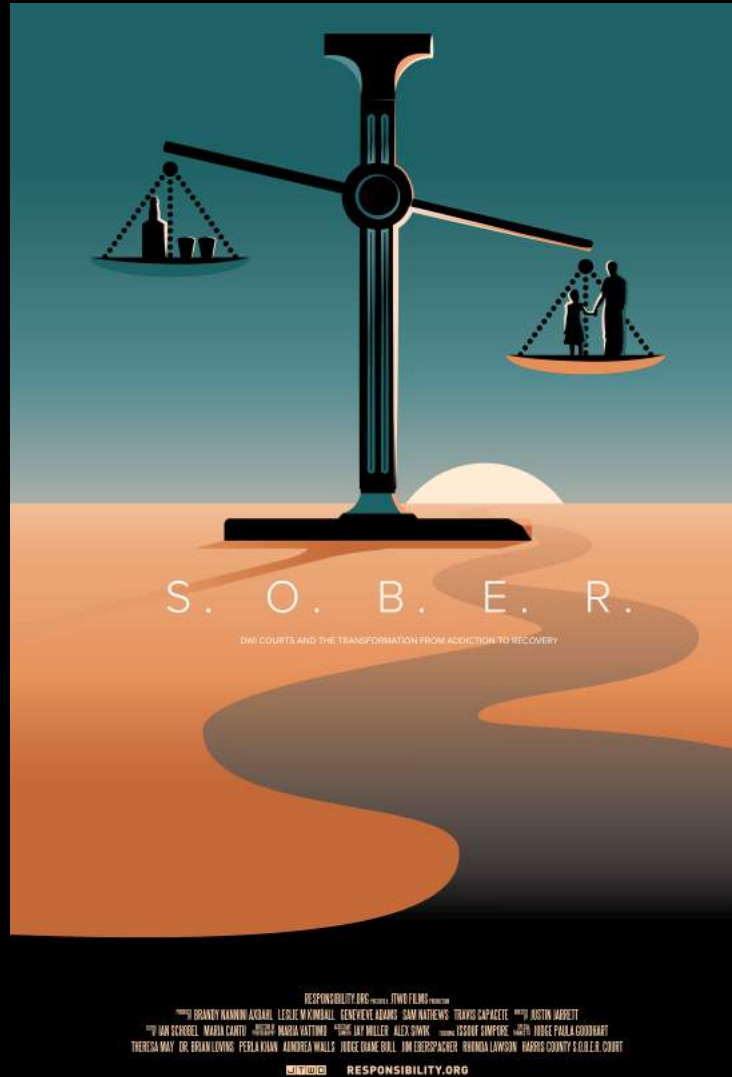
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Responsibility.org's mission has always been personal to me. Early on in my life, I lost my best friend to a DWI and that has shaped many of my choices and decisions as a filmmaker in my career. So when producers from Responsibility.org approached me about directing this project, I was intrigued at having the opportunity to sit down and talk to someone on the other side of a DWI and try to gain an understanding about how they got to that point in their life. I was also excited by the fact that SOBER Court (which I had never even heard of at the time) offered an alternate solution that, to me, worked on fixing the root of the problem.

From the moment that I met Issouf, I knew he wanted to make a change in his life. Before I had ever sat down and talked to him about what led him to this point - his struggles with substance abuse, feelings of being alone as an immigrant, the pressures of being a new parent and the loss of his own, I knew that he was grateful for the opportunity to turn it all around. I could tell that he was ready just by the way he carried himself and how excited he was to graduate from SOBER Court.

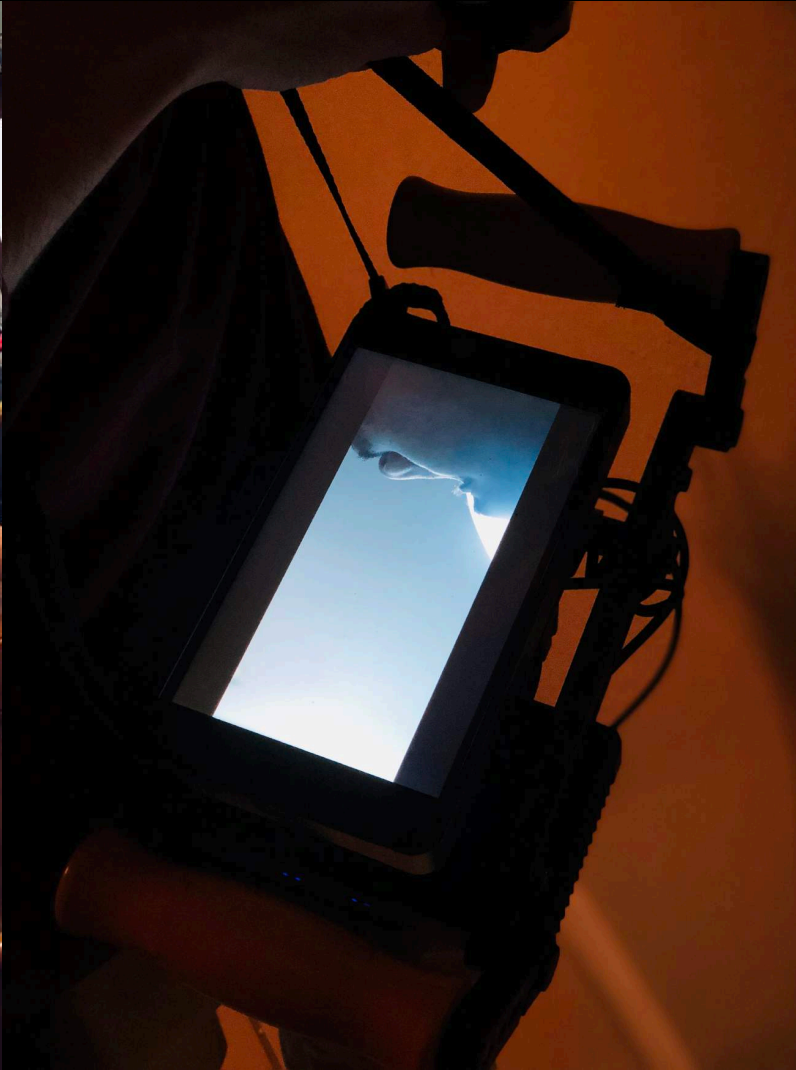
I think too often, we see someone commit a crime and we immediately jump to the punishment for that crime, but we fail to step back and look at how we can help this person. Do we as a society have the ability to honestly help this person get their life back on track? Do we make those tools readily available to them, or do we simply lock them up and throw away the key hoping the problem simply solves itself? My hope was that as filmmakers we could open the door to society beginning to look at Issouf as a human being that needs our help rather than a statistic that happens to be a human being. Then, hopefully, if we are lucky maybe his story could help someone else and so on and so forth. Eventually, changing the conversation and beginning to reduce the problem that is recidivism.

POSTER



Full res poster files available upon request

BEHIND THE SCENES



GEAR + EQUIPMENT

CAMERAS:

- RED Weapon Helium 8k
- Sony FS5

LENSES:

- ZEISS CP.3 T2.1 Compact Prime Lenses

POST-PRODUCTION:

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, Photoshop, Illustrator)
- DaVinci Resolve 16
- Promax Online 2000 10GB Fiber Server (10G Base-T)
- Apple iMac 27"
- PC - Ryzen Threadripper 1950X 3.4 GHz 16 Core TR4 Boxed Processor, ROG X399 ZENITH EXTREME TR4 eATX AMD Motherboard (RAM CORSAIR Vengeance LPX 64GB (4 x 16GB) 288-Pin DDR4 SDRAM DDR4 3200 (PC4 25600) Desktop Memory Model CMK32GX4M2D3200C16



CREDITS

PRESENTED BY:

[RESPONSIBILITY.ORG](https://www.responsibility.org)

PRODUCED BY

JTWO FILMS

WRITTEN + DIRECTED BY:

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Harris County S.O.B.E.R Court

STOCK FOOTAGE

Pond 5

ArtGrid

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