

Learn How To Find A Good Lawyer When You Really Need One

Description

When searching for the right attorney, experienced attorneys can assist clients in solving a variety of financial (and many that are more emotional than financial) questions.



However, there is one type of inquiry that we cannot answer: legal questions about things like filing for bankruptcy, establishing an estate plan, or pursuing a legal dispute. So, regardless of how much we enjoy lawyer jokes, we require them occasionally. But where and how can you look for a decent one?

Your employer is an excellent place to start. Inquire if your company provides reduced legal services through a specialized program or a more broad EAP (employee assistance program). While you may not be able to find Johnny Cochran this way, it can be a fantastic resource for getting basic legal documents like a will and power of attorney done for a fair fee or determining whether it's worth taking the next step in a more complex circumstance. For example, suppose your EAP provides a free 30-minute legal consultation, in that case, you can utilize that time to determine whether bankruptcy is a good option for you or whether you have a valid legal claim to file a lawsuit before engaging a more expensive attorney. On a site like lawhelp.org, you can also acquire free legal information and learn about pro bono legal services.

When you're ready to hire an attorney, the next step is to seek referrals from family members, friends, and other professionals you work with. Lawyers you or someone you know can be helpful even if they practice in a different area because lawyers tend to know other lawyers and, more importantly, which ones are the most trustworthy. CPAs and financial advisors are in the same boat. After all, because so much of their income originates from recommendations, building these relationships is critical to their professional success.

You can also use the lawyer recommendation service your state or local bar association provides. At the very least, this will supply you with local attorneys who practice in the region you require. The American Bar Association's national Lawyer Referral Directory can help you identify your local site.

Once you've identified several candidates, don't just hire the first one on the list. Choosing the wrong attorney can cost you a lot of time and money, so you should interview at least three.

First, ensure that the attorneys provide the service you require. Second, visit your state bar website to discover whether any disciplinary procedures have been taken against them. You can then ask them the following questions:

Who will I be collaborating with?

You don't want to locate an attorney you truly like only to be passed off to a young associate you don't care for.

What qualifications do you have?

Every lawyer licensed to the bar in your state is technically authorized to practice law. Still, they may also have achieved a specialization, such as the AEP certification (Accredited Estate Planner) or an LLM (Master of Laws) in an area such as tax law.

How much experience do you have working with clients in situations similar to mine?

You probably don't want your son's friend's DUI lawyer to draft his first trust for you.

How would you be compensated?

If you're paying a flat charge or an hourly rate, you'll want to know how much this will cost you and whether it's worthwhile.

Have you got any queries for me?

An intelligent lawyer will be concerned with your circumstances and requirements rather than their own.

Finally, you'll want to work with people you like and trust, so don't overlook personality and personal chemistry. I hope these suggestions help you find an excellent attorney in any event. Another reason for lousy lawyer jokes is the last thing you need.

Category

1. Lifestyle

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