



The Search for a Good Attorney

Recommendations are the best way to find a good attorney. Start with the people you trust. Ask them if they know a good attorney—any good attorney, the specialty doesn't matter. Call that attorney. Ask for his or her recommendations. Who would that attorney call if he had your situation? Also, talk with people who have been through your legal situation before. Did they have a good experience with their lawyer? When looking for recommendations, don't forget to ask professionals you trust like your dentist, accountant or insurance salesperson.

After you have a few names of attorneys with the right specialty, do some interviewing. Do you like the attorney? Do you feel heard? What does your gut say? Ask some nuts and bolts types of questions. How many cases like yours has the attorney handled in the past year, or in his or her career? How will she handle your case? What are the costs/legal fees for a case like yours? Does the attorney have time for your case? How much of the case will be handled by the attorney and how much by secretaries and paralegals?

Lastly, shop around. If you don't click with someone with the right qualifications, keep searching. Following the principles of the "Seven Degrees of Separation", you are only seven people removed from a wonderful attorney. (They do exist).