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How To Pick A Lawyer

Who is the right lawyer for you?

After a person recognizes the need for lawyer, often the first step is to ask friends and family for a referral. The next step might then be a visit to the web site.

Here are some things to think about.

1. Web sites are for information and an impressive one is a credit to the web designer, not necessarily to the lawyer.
2. Many lawyer's web sites make reference to the lawyer's skill and experience. It is a good idea to think through whether those words are backed up by reality, or are simply self-promotion. Has the lawyer been working long enough to acquire the experience claimed?
3. Lawyers charge for their time, and unfortunately, there is no insurance to cover the fee, as there is with medical expenses. Nonetheless, it may be worth your time and money to meet with more than one lawyer before deciding who will represent you.
4. We suggest that you think about whether you feel comfortable with the lawyer, whether the lawyer exhibits the knowledge and skill described in their web site, and remember, you will likely be discussing personal details, so choose someone you can talk to.
5. Does it make any difference which law school the lawyer attended? I think so. You decide for yourself. Below are the pass rates for the most recent Virginia Bar Exam, which lawyers are required to take and pass in order to practice law.

	First-time Takers Percentage	Overall Percentage
All Virginia Bar Exam Applicants	72.86%	68.00%
Virginia Law Schools:		
Appalachian School of Law	40.00%	42.42%
College of William and Mary	84.38%	82.18%
George Mason University	72.36%	70.87%
Liberty University	50.00%	43.18%
Regent University	73.33%	68.63%
University of Richmond	86.73%	82.64%
University of Virginia	89.41%	88.37%
Washington and Lee University	89.19%	87.50%

Why the great difference in pass rates? There are many reasons, but the two most important are: quality of student and quality of teaching/education.

You will find that the higher the pass rate, almost without exception, the more difficult the admission into the particular law school is.

6. Most people act, then seek legal advice/help after a problem develops. We suggest that you consider asking for the advice first – doing so can help to eliminate or minimize many problems.
7. Very few life decisions do not have at least some legal implications.