



Take It From A **PRO**

“I Hope I Never Need An Attorney”

By Luwana Brown, Attorney

My inspiration for writing this article is based purely on the personal experiences that I've had when I've told others that I am an attorney. In response to disclosure of my occupation, the phrase most commonly uttered is “I hope I don't ever need your services,” with an uneasy smile. My reply to that is: “No one ever wants to have a root canal, but the truth is, sometimes you just have to have it.” In the same token, I do believe that it is sometimes necessary for one to hire an attorney. Having an attorney not only protects you in negative and/or financial situations, but attorneys also assist with positive changes in your life which may include, marriage, buying property, entering into business contracts, etc.

It is imperative that everyone educate themselves regarding basic legal issues, so that when a situation arises in which an attorney is needed, they will have enough knowledge to know that an attorney can protect them in ways that common sense simply cannot. Similar to the situation where a person suddenly finds him or herself painfully in need of a root canal - do not wait until the last minute. You don't want to come to the realization that you are in a bad situation, while frustratingly looking through the colorful ads in the “Attorneys” section of the phone book, and even having a clue how you managed to get yourself into such a legal mess!

To assist you in your proactive legal efforts, here is a simple checklist that the average person can use to make sure the attorney he or she chooses is right for him or her:

- In Good Standing with the State Bar where Licensed
- No Ethical Violations with any State Legal Ethics Committee
- Legal Liability Coverage (A must)

- Payment Plan or Detailed Statement for the Cost of Legal Services (by hour or retainer)
- Manageable Case load
- Personality that is easy to work with (Last but not least)

Other Sources to Consider:

- Houston Lawyer Referral Services
- Pre-Paid Legal Services

Also, know if at any point you feel that you may have a legal issue at hand, remember most attorneys provide free initial legal counseling. Now you will have an idea of the initial questions to be asked if deciding you are in need of legal services after the counseling.

Yours Truly
Luwana Brown, Attorney

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