

Things to Remember When Speaking to an Attorney

- Seeking legal advice on your immigration case can be overwhelming!
- Remember that an attorney works for you and not the other way around, whether or not you are paying for their services
- You have the right to ask as many questions about your case as you would like! If you are not clear on the details of your case, ask clarifying questions.

Where to Search for a Good Lawyer?

- Ask if the attorney has an initial consultation fee. Some will provide an initial consultation for free, but many will not.
- Gather the most important documents relevant to your immigration case. This may include visas, passports, any letters from USCIS, or any documents you were given when you entered the US.
- Prepare to share details about your migration history with the attorney. They will ask details about your date and manner of entry into the United States, as well as your experiences in the US.
- Be 100% honest with the attorney. Remember that the information that you share with them is confidential.

When Meeting with an Attorney for the First Time

- Speak to trusted community members and/or community groups to ask for their recommendations on reputable attorneys who have been known to treat people with respect and provide good services.
- Remember that all immigration representatives whether they are attorneys or accredited representatives will have a license to practice.
- Just because someone has a license to practice does not mean that they are a good attorney, just that they meet the baseline of representing you legally



A Good Lawyer Should.....

- Keep your information confidential
- Show compassion and patience and respect
- Take into account clients' respective traumas
- Listen to all you have to say
- Work as a team WITH you
- Answer all your questions truthfully and to the best of their abilities
- Explain clearly how/why certain laws affect you
- Being real/practical, no over-promising a quick/easy fix
- Admit to not knowing something - no one knows everything! It's ok if an attorney doesn't know the answer - don't pretend to know when they don't



Red Flags

- Expressing annoyance when you ask a question/communicate
- Failing to explain possible bad outcomes
- Ignorant assumptions about a client's culture, race, sexual orientation, nationality, gender identity and expression, and gender roles within their respective culture
- Overpromising that everything will work out no matter what
- Failing to explain the process - what forms, why, what information is required
- Lack of communication about what is happening in your case
- Asking you to write your own statement without any guidance or explanation that you will continue to work on it together



REMINDER

Notarios are not legal representatives so they CANNOT give you legal advice or assist you in filling out forms . They can only assist with translation services, assisting you in gathering documents, and photocopying documents of your application.

Additionally, just because someone you know had a positive experience with a specific lawyer, doesn't mean you will. Always do your own vetting beforehand!