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How To Choose A Personal Injury Attorney

A Guide to Finding the Right Injury Attorney
to Help With Your Personal Injury Lawsuit

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As an attorney who works regularly on personal injury lawsuits, I know how big a decision it can be to choose the right personal injury lawyer. Getting the right lawyer at the beginning of this process is key in getting the result you are looking for.

My name is Mike Gertler. I'm a managing partner with the Gertler Law Firm, a Personal Injury Law Firm based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

I don't need to tell you that the television, radio and Internet are flooded with advertising from law firms looking to get your business after you or a family member have been injured - or even worse, a loved one has been killed.

When I get a call from a prospective client, one of the first things people tell me is, "There's so much junk out there, I didn't know who to call."

In this report, I'd like to show you **how to choose the right personal injury attorney.**

The First Step

When you, or a family member, have been seriously injured due to the negligence of someone else, selecting an attorney is not your first priority – getting proper medical care is. Focus on nothing but that... because that's what matters right now.

The Second Step

Before the medical bills begin to pile up and lost wages begin to impact your family's budget, you really should begin the process of selecting the right attorney.

Hiring an injury attorney as soon as possible accomplishes two things:

1. It will give them an opportunity to quickly gather as much information and evidence concerning the incident as possible.
2. And they will make sure any eyewitnesses get interviewed promptly so their recollection of the accident does not become clouded or stale.

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Here are a handful of tips to help you find the right personal injury attorney:

Tip #1 – Select An Attorney Who Is Local

Forget about the 800 numbers you see advertised on television, billboards and radio. These law firms are usually in other states, are not even licensed in Louisiana, and many times will not be familiar with the laws of this state. This is not the time for your attorney to be “learning on the job”, so only hire law firms that are licensed in Louisiana and have an office in the state.

Tip #2 – Ask Friends, Family & Co-Workers For Advice

Typically, referrals will be the best source of qualified attorneys to help with your personal injury claim as long as the referral is from someone you trust – and they have experience with a lawyer in a lawsuit.

Relying on a referral from a family member who had a succession drawn up is not going to help because an estate attorney will have little experience in high-stakes litigation.

Tip #3 – Only Speak With An Attorney That’s Familiar With Your Type Of Claim

This is similar to Tip #2 in the fact that it makes little sense to work with an attorney that has a lot of experience in Legal Malpractice....if you need an attorney that’s experienced in Medical Malpractice because a doctor made a surgical error that caused a permanent injury.

Choose an injury attorney that has experience in the claim you want to pursue – or experience in a related claim area.

Tip #4 – Only Choose An Attorney That Offers Contingency Fees As One Of Their Options

Contingency fees mean that if a Gertler attorney does not win your case....you owe nothing - no fees, costs, or expenses. While other law firms, even if they don’t win your case, might still charge only costs and expenses. The right injury attorney will offer a contingency fee arrangement if he or she feels it is best for their client.

So, when you settle your lawsuit, or win at trial, your attorney receives a percentage of your settlement or award as payment.

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What that means to you is this – hire the right personal injury attorney because the contingency fee agreement option costs you nothing unless you win or settle your case.

Tip #5 – Experience Matters

Your attorney's experience is their most valuable asset. How many years of experience does the attorney have? Our firm has been helping victims and their families for more than 35 years and most of our attorneys have decades of legal experience.

Additionally, has the attorney you are considering taken an injury lawsuit to trial? If they've never been to trial.... find another attorney.

Our experience and trial work is why many of our potential clients....become clients.

Tip #6 – Ask Questions

I encourage you to ask questions of the attorneys you are considering. It's the last and perhaps most important step in this process.

Here are some of the best questions I've had clients ask me over the years. It would be a good idea for you to ask the same questions to the attorneys you are considering.

1. Who handles my case on a day to day basis?
2. How often do you update me on my case?
3. If I need to speak to the trial attorney on my case, how can I reach him after hours?
4. Are you a large firm or a small firm?
5. What information do you provide before I come into your office?
6. Do you have informative reports that explain how to select a personal injury attorney?
7. Who handles my deposition: a young associate or the senior trial attorney?
8. Who handles my trial? Is it the same attorney that I meet with initially, or someone I've never met before?
9. If the attorney you are speaking with says your case is worth millions of dollars, ask them to put that in writing. You'll get a real opinion – not a pipe-dream.

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If you can't get satisfactory answers to these questions – find another attorney.

Remember, it's very important to take the time to do your homework when choosing a personal injury attorney. A little work on your part will ensure you get the very best lawyer for your particular case.

If you have any questions about a personal injury matter, give us a call at 504-581-6411 or toll-free at 877-581-6411.

We'd be happy to assist you.

Mike Gertler

www.neworleanspersonalinjury.com

Gertler Law Firm

129 Carondelet Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

504-581-6411 or Toll Free at 1-877-581-6411