IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY RESOURCE INFORMATION

The Oregon American Immigration Lawyer’s Association (AILA) maintains a current list of practicing immigration attorneys.


The American Immigration Lawyer’s Association maintains a lawyer’s referral service to assist you in selecting an attorney with particular expertise.

http://aila.org
Click on “Immigration Law and You,” and “Immigration Lawyer Referral Service.”

The Oregon State Bar Association has a lawyer referral service and can help you if you are having difficulties with a specific lawyer.

http://www.osbar.org/

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS: MAKING THE CHOICE

When selecting an attorney, you should expect:

- A written agreement
- A flat fee (charge for the entire service, not per hour)
- Prompt communication and thorough explanations
- Prompt notice of activity in the case
- Confidentiality
- Copies of correspondence, applications, etc.
- Receipts for expenses
- Discussion about incremental fee payments
- Discussion of additional fees for excessive requests

These are some questions you may wish to ask the attorney prior to working with him or her.

1. Does the attorney primarily practice in the area of immigration law?

2. Does the attorney primarily practice in specialty areas of immigration law?

3. How many years has the attorney been practicing immigration law?

4. What kind of experience does the attorney have with the specific type of case you have?
IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS: MAKING THE CHOICE

5. Is the attorney knowledgeable in international student and scholar issues?

6. Is the attorney a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association? If not, is it very unlikely that s/he is actively practicing immigration law? You can find a referral to AILA Immigration attorneys on their website at http://www.aila.org/.

7. Will you be working directly with that attorney? Some will turn your case over to an associate or a legal assistant after the initial interview.

8. What is the attorney’s honest appraisal of the likelihood of success with your case? Be wary of anyone who “guarantees” you success.

9. Does everything you know about this attorney tell you that this person is knowledgeable and competent to handle your specific type of case?

10. Does everything you know about this attorney tell you that this person is ethical and honest in relations with clients?

11. Are you comfortable with the attorney’s style and personality?

12. Is there any initial consultation fee? Some attorneys have an hourly charge; others have a fixed fee, depending on the type of case. You may wish to meet with an attorney for a consultation only and/or hire the attorney to handle your case.

13. Are the fees comparable to other attorneys’ fees? If not, why not? The lowest fees do not necessarily indicate the best deal. The highest fee does not necessarily indicate the best service.

14. If you still have questions about the attorney’s background and qualifications, contact the Oregon State Bar Association (http://www.osbar.org/) for information about a particular attorney.