

## WHY YOU SHOULD HIRE AN ATTORNEY

Having an attorney on your business team will provide vital assistance in almost every aspect of your business. A lawyer can handle everything from formal business incorporation, lawsuits and liability to zoning compliance and copyright and trademark advice.

## IF YOU ARE BEING SUED, IT'S TOO LATE!

At the Contiguglia Law Firm, our fundamental philosophy is to prevent legal disputes from occurring in the first place. Having strong legal fitness will reduce the risk of legal disputes. Unfortunately, many businesses put off hiring a lawyer until the dispute has gotten out of hand, or they are now involved in litigation. Bad luck! The time to associate with a good business lawyer is BEFORE the dispute arises. Once litigation has commenced, it's too late and the problem has already occurred. Then, it's just a matter of time and how much you will have to pay (in court costs, attorneys' fees, settlements and other expenses) to get the problem resolved.



**CONTIGUGLIA  
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FROM THE TRENCHES  
**LEGAL LESSONS**  
I N B U S I N E S S





#### WHAT TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN HIRING A LAWYER

- DOES THE LAWYER COMMUNICATE WELL?
- ARE THE OFFICES CONVENIENTLY LOCATED?
- IS THIS LAWYER WITHIN MY BUDGET?
- DO I LIKE THIS PERSON?
- IS THIS PERSON EXPERIENCED?

## Hiring a lawyer is like buying a car

EACH ONE HAS A DISTINCT PERSONALITY; FIND THE RIGHT FIT

Don't be afraid to follow your instincts and feelings. There are a bunch of great lawyers out there. But get one that fits your personality the best. You should be able to communicate openly and freely with your attorney at all times. If you can't see eye to eye, you might have to keep looking. Remember, a dynamic personality and good looks will only go so far. Accuracy, thoroughness, intelligence, and the willingness to hustle hard for you will help you achieve your goals.

The Contiguglia Law Firm strives to provide thorough and cost effective legal representation to its clients while providing unique solutions to complex problems. Our goal is to help you avoid legal disputes through careful preparation and planning. We will outline all your available options and tell you what other businesses in similar situations typically do. Communication is key. You should be able to communicate openly and freely with your lawyer at all times.

## unique solutions for your business needs

#### WHAT TYPE OF LAWYER DO YOU NEED?

Some lawyers specialize, while others carry a broad understanding of many different topics. The Contiguglia Law Firm's law practice is broad, We have the ability to provide unique, original solutions to complicated legal problems. Our skill and insight will help you reach a solution to your case. We help protect our client's rights and stand up for their position while assisting them with a resolution to best achieve their objectives. Types of lawyers you can utilize:

- Contracts.
- Business Organizations..
- Real Estate.
- Taxes and Licensing
- Intellectual Property

#### MEET WITH YOUR LAWYER

This might seem counter intuitive to keep costs down, but you'll be surprised how frequent contact can reduce the endless rounds of phone tag that plague busy entrepreneurs and attorneys. A monthly five- or 10-minute meeting (even by phone) can save you substantial sums by nipping small legal problems in advance before they have a chance to grow.

#### HOW CAN I SAVE MONEY WHEN I HIRE AN ATTORNEY?.

#### TYPES OF FEE STRUCTURES

For many entrepreneurs, the idea of consulting with a lawyer can be a scary experience, with visions of skyrocketing legal bills. Yes, lawyers can be expensive. But, the good news is there are many ways to keep your legal fees under control, and within your budget. Start by learning about the various ways lawyers bill their time:

- Hourly or per diem rate.
- Flat Fee.
- Monthly Retainer.
- Contingent Fee
- Value Billing.

The Contiguglia Law Firm will work with you to determine if one method will work better for you than another. In certain circumstances, we offer flexible arrangements to meet your needs. Generally, when you hire an attorney, you will receive an agreement (called an "engagement letter") detailing the billing method. The engagement letter will define the various rates for attorneys in the office and the method for billing. This agreement also will specify what expenses you're expected to reimburse.

