

# Choosing the Best Lawyer for Your Small Business

---

*Article by: Jo Ann Joy*

If you own a small business, it is important to choose the best lawyer to represent the interests of your small business. A strategic business lawyer can help you with your start-up and ongoing strategies, help you with critical business planning, review leases and contracts, and negotiate for you. Your attorney must help you comply with a myriad of regulations from employment issues to zoning.

You must research carefully to find just the right legal expert. You do not want a lawyer who does not take an interest in or learn about your business. You can ask accountants, bankers, other small-business owners, and friends for referrals. You can check with your state Bar association to find out if they have attorneys who specialize in representing small businesses. You can ask for and check the lawyer's references. You can also look in the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.

You should not make your final decision based on referrals or other sources. You must interview the lawyers that you believe would suit your business. You should be aware that many attorneys charge a consultation fee of \$150 or more. That is a small amount to pay to be sure that the lawyer you choose can meet your needs and will really do a job representing your business.

The following are a few points to keep in mind when you interview the attorney. First, be sure that the lawyer does not rush through the interview and gives you his or her full, undivided attention. Be sure that the lawyer you choose understands your business and your industry including its processes. The lawyer you choose must be willing to take as much time as needed to explain every legal issue that may arise and its consequences. Finally, the lawyer must be available to you whenever you need help, and it is not acceptable for the lawyer to turn you over to the legal assistant after your retainer is paid.

There may be other things that are important to you, and you should not hesitate to demand the type and quality of service that you deserve.

Copyright 2006. Indigo Business Solutions is a registered trade name. Jo Ann Joy, CEO,  
[www.IndigoBusinessSolutions.net](http://www.IndigoBusinessSolutions.net)

Phone (602) 663-7007, Fax (602) 324-7582

***The future of your business starts here.***

For more information about these and other important business topics and for legal consultation, please visit our website at <http://www.IndigoBusinessSolutions.net>