



LEGAL NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUITY

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN SELECTING AN ATTORNEY

Fees and Costs

All lawyers in NWLC's Legal Network have agreed to provide an initial consultation free of charge for clients who learn of them through the Legal Network. When contacting lawyers that NWLC provides to you, you may let them know that NWLC provided you with their name, and confirm that the initial consultation will be free of charge. While some lawyers who participate in the network may occasionally take certain cases pro bono or for a reduced fee, this is not the case for all lawyers in the Network. With any attorney, it is important to understand how you will be billed, and receive a written fee agreement that explains what fees will be charged.

1. What is an estimate of the total costs for handling my case all the way through?
2. How are fees charged for your services? Are these charged by the hour, by contingency, or some other way? Are there other costs that might be involved in my case?
3. How and when will I be billed, and will the bills be itemized? Can I pay the bill in installments?
4. Are there ways that I could assist by gathering documents or in other ways that would help manage fees in my case?

Attorney Background and Fit

1. What kind of cases do you typically work on?
2. How many years have you practiced law? Do you have experience litigating cases including questioning witnesses or making legal arguments in court?

3. What is your experience with my specific issue? How many cases have you worked on in this area of the law? What were the outcomes of those cases?
4. Do you have any personal hesitancy about any of the issues brought up by my case? (If applicable) What is your comfort level with having a client who has experienced sexual harassment or assault?
5. What kind of arguments will be used against me? What is your experience handling these kinds of arguments in court?
6. If there are multiple different forms of discrimination or claims in my case (for example, discrimination based on both sex and race, or a pregnancy discrimination case that also has a potential ADA claim), do you have experience working on each of these kinds of claims?
7. Have you ever handled a case filed in the court that my case is in?

Case Questions

1. Do you have any concerns about this case? How likely do you think it is that this case will be successful? What are likely outcomes if my case is successful?
2. Have cases like mine typically been resolved outside of court, or have they gone to court?
3. What would the estimated timetable for my case be?
4. How and how frequently will I be informed of updates in my case? Will I be provided with copies of documents that are relevant in my case?

