

5 Things You Need To Know Before Retaining The Services Of A Lawyer In Nigeria

Hello there this is the Corkwell and Reids Team¹ and we would like to give you an insight into some factors you need to consider before retaining the services of a lawyer/law firm in Nigeria.

Before we start, you must know that the legal profession in Nigeria is fused this means that there is no distinction between being a barrister and solicitor. Some lawyers as a matter of practice have chosen to be either a Barrister or a Solicitor.

Now to the kernel of the matter:

1. Experience: before you call that lawyer does he have the relevant experience in that area of law where you need his or her services? Some lawyers are good in real estate, some litigation or arbitration others in financial transactions. So how do you know if the lawyer possesses the requisite skill or not? The easiest way is to check the law firm's website or the lawyers' professional social media page like LinkedIn and the likes. Another way is to interview the lawyer at the consultation stage to assess his capabilities.
2. Fees, Costs, and Billings: a major tie-breaker in a lawyer/client relationship. Before you retain the services of a lawyer in Nigeria it is important you understand the lawyer/law firm billing system. Some law firms charge per hour, some by lump sum, some based on success. Some law firms also charge for stationaries, phone calls, and other administrative fees. It is therefore important to clarify the fees payable before entering that relationship if necessary let all fees be stated in writing and signed by parties.

3. Availability: while briefing your lawyer, ask him if he is available some lawyers are very busy and may not have the strength for additional briefs. Some lawyers might be on holiday and retaining the services of such a lawyer might just be a waste of time especially when the brief is urgent.
4. Size: Does size matters? Or Client satisfaction. The truth is that some tasks would require extra hands some tasks on the other hand may require a single hand. So before you brief, that lawyer make sure he has the adequate resources to handle your task.
5. Location: Location plays a critical role in retaining the services of a lawyer in Nigeria. Some legal jobs may require long hours of travel which might become a burden on the Client, some tasks may require a lawyer who is on ground or around that particular location where the task is to be executed.

The list is not exhaustive but we find these points as some of the most critical factors you must consider before retaining the services of a lawyer in Nigeria.

ⁱ Corkwell and Reids is a mid-size law firm based in Nigeria and provides legal services on a broad range of issues. You can visit our site on www.candrsolicitors.com.ng