

HOW TO CHOOSE A PATENT ATTORNEY

Selecting the right patent attorney is a crucial step in the invention process. Your patent will only be as good as the patent attorney drafting it.

Here's How:

1. You should select a patent attorney who is also an engineer. Both skills are needed to construct a good patent document.
2. You should select an attorney whose engineering background relates to the field of your invention. There are four types of engineers, mechanical, chemical, electrical and computer science.
3. Ask the attorney, what kind of engineer he is, how long has he practiced patent law, how many patents has he drafted and for what kinds of inventions.
4. Only choose an attorney who can give you a quote for what the entire bill will be. They will have to inspect your invention first. Ask how the payments will be arranged.
5. Use a patent attorney that hires an independent professional patent searcher. An in-house searcher would provide a conflict of interest, leaning towards making the patent search more favorable.
6. Trust your intuition and only choose an attorney who you feel understands your invention.
7. Interview different attorneys until you have made your choice. You will be working with this individual for 2 to 3 years.

Tips:

1. Most reputable patent attorneys charge between \$3,000 to \$10,000 (circa 2003) for a well-drafted patent application including the drawings and filing fee. Anything less than \$3,000 should be scrutinized.
2. Educate yourself about the patent process and understand as much as you can. It will help you work better with your attorney.
3. You could hire a patent agent instead of an attorney, but the patent agent will not be able to litigate for you if any infringement issues arise.
4. Never deal with a salesperson, in choosing an attorney always deal directly with the attorney.

NOTE: Source, date, and accuracy of the above information is unknown.