

LifeMap is a navigational tool to help you on your path towards personal and professional success.

Our belief is that you can achieve a more rewarding career, a more productive organization and a more satisfying life.



To subscribe a friend, colleague or family member to this free newsletter - email their address to drpaul@drpaulpowers.com with the subject line "Send LifeMap"

Why You Need a Lawyer (or two.)

The major dimensions of LifeSpace Planning and Development are Career Life, Personal Life, Home Life, and Societal Life. Some of the more prosaic elements of home life concerns building that home life upon a solid financial and legal foundation. In LifeMap we've already explored the why's and how's of building a personal board of advisors.

More than one editor has told me in no uncertain terms that nobody wants to hear that it is inevitable that they are going to need a lawyer at multiple points in their life. Why? Because lawyers cost money. Because it often means there is a problem of some sort. Because too many people sue each other over nothing, driving up the costs of most everything they buy. Because nobody wants to go to court. And on and on including a vast repertoire of lawyer jokes. (Some of which are quite funny and none of which will be repeated here.)

I understand those reactions but that does not change the reality that in today's complex world most aspects of your life are governed or strongly influenced by a host of laws. These laws are not easily understood by us laypeople especially when so many of them are written to be confusing, have built in exceptions, and are contradictory.

Some people try to manage their legal lives themselves. Some legal forms are easy to find and fill out. Yes, you can represent yourself in court before a judge and / or a jury. But ask yourself why the age-old axiom that "a man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client" remains pertinent today. Succeeding in the legal world demands training and expertise - and a way of thinking - that a non-lawyer just does not have. So if the above thoughts make sense

to you we now have two questions:

1. Realistically why would I ever need a lawyer (assuming I'm not a criminal)?
2. How do I find a good lawyer?

Paths Forward

To answer these questions I tapped the expertise of a couple of great attorneys with whom I've the opportunity to work with in the past. I'll answer the latter question first because their answers to the former question came at me as if from a fire hose.

• Finding a Good Lawyer.

You do this the same way you would find any other skilled professional. You would ask for referrals from other professionals in closely related fields. You can ask your friends, family members, and other members of your personal board of advisors for referrals. You can get referrals from the local Bar association. The key is to find an attorney who has an established competence in the area of law you are concerned with. You wouldn't consult a surgeon for an allergy problem. You wouldn't consult a boat mechanic for a car problem. The best real estate lawyer shouldn't be your choice for an employment, medical, or probate issue. Not even if he was your Cousin Vinny. Locating the right professional demands your time and energy; there is no shortcut.

• Why Think About This Now? Why would I need a lawyer?

The short answer is because you have a life. I assume you are an average, nice person who is not prone to legal difficulties. But, to navigate modern life you will need legal counsel because in *every* life (to paraphrase) *stuff* happens. And when it does you will need a lawyer. The input I received is that you will need an attorney if:

- you are signing a contract borrowing or lending money,
- you or your debtor defaults on a loan or pays off a loan,
- you've been in a car accident,
- you caused a car accident,
- you are charged with driving under the influence,
- you are charged with any crime,
- you are called as a witness in any legal case,
- you buy or sell any real estate,
- you start a business,
- you sell a business,
- you establish a business partnership,
- you think you were illegally discharged from a place of employment,
- you were injured at work,
- you think you were discriminated in some way by an employer or business establishment,
- you get married or remarried and need to change / update documents,
- you adopt a child,
- you get separated or divorced,
- you are breaking up a cohabitation arrangement,
- you need custody or child support arrangements,
- you need to collect on a debt,
- you have an elder needing a conservatorship or guardianship,
- you are sued for a debt,
- you need a will or trust,
- you need a health care proxy, living will or advanced directive,
- you need a power of attorney or durable power of attorney,
- you are appointed executor or trustee of an estate

- you are appointed executor or trustee of an estate,
- you are denied an insurance claim or settlement,
- you hire an agent, personal or business manager,
- you have a contract of any sort to sign,
- you sell the rights to a patent, copyright or other intellectual property,
- your financial picture suddenly or drastically increases (i.e. from stock options, bequest, lottery winnings),
- your financial picture suddenly or drastically decreases (i.e. from job loss, illness, bankruptcy).

In short it is probable you will at some point need professional legal advice and counsel for some aspect of your life. Life can be tough but it can be made tougher by wandering alone and defenseless in the legal desert. The time to consider this is before the stressful time arrives when you actually need legal counsel.

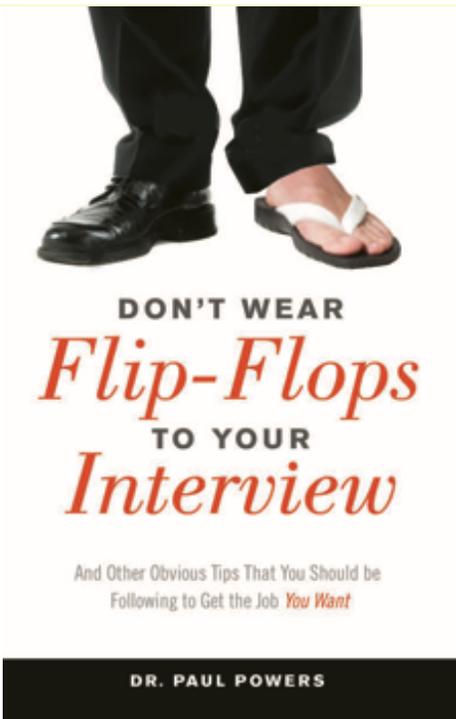
Suggested Resource: [How to Hire a Lawyer: The Client's Essential Guide to Finding the Right Advocate by Audrey Erhardt](#) (Publisher: Book Baby)

LifeMap (sm) is about finding and using the best professional advice possible when the issue at hand is beyond your personal knowledge and expertise.

•••

[LifeMap Archives](#)

•••



Career Best Seller

For the past 30 years I've surveyed successful job hunters and captured their proven shortcuts, insider knowledge and time-saving / stress reducing tips.

My latest book [Don't Wear Flip-Flops to Your Interview](#) is packed with strategies and techniques that are practical, market-proven, and easy to use. Added to this powerful mix, are the hard-won lessons from the personal experiences of thousands of professionals who have succeeded in the job changing game. It is not necessary for you to struggle to rediscover and reinvent the job hunting process. Here you will find the keys to a more productive, shorter and less stressful job search.

Tired of Boring Meetings?

Have Dr. Paul speak at your next off-site meeting or conference. Fast-moving, practical, motivating presentations from an

Need Career Coaching?

The best investment you can make is in your career, your future and yourself.

acknowledged leader in the field of career and personal success.

Email me at drpaul@drpaulpowers.com

drpaulpowers.com/speakingschedule

Have an issue or question you'd like Dr. Paul to address in a future edition? Send an email to the email address listed below.

If you found this issue of **LifeMap** of value please forward it to three people who you think will enjoy it or you may send us their email address for a free subscription.

To ensure that **LifeMap** is delivered to your inbox, please add drpaul@drpaulpowers.com to your address book or list of approved senders.

(Our privacy policy: we do not share or sell email addresses or any info with any other parties. Ever.)

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul

Dr. Paul Powers | www.drpaulpowers.com



Dr. Paul Powers | 218 Brandywine Circle, Englewood, FL 34223

[Unsubscribe linda@powersdesign.net](mailto:linda@powersdesign.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by drpaul@drpaulpowers.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact® 

Try email marketing for free today!