

In my first installment of the Bankruptcy Locker I spoke about some general terms used in the insolvency world including the different Chapters, and the importance of finding a competent Bankruptcy attorney.

This time I will go into more detail about what to look for and why it is important to find the right lawyer.

To begin with, any Attorney, in good standing can as a matter of course represent you in a Bankruptcy action. My caveat to you is by analogy the following; If you need a knee replacement get a Medical Doctor

If you need a Bankruptcy Lawyer Do Not Get;

Family law

Get divorced

General business

Set up Corporation

Intellectual property

Get you a Trademark

Estate planning

Take care of the kids

Criminal

Keep out of jail

If you want the best representation to get out of jail, do not hire an IP lawyer

If you want your knee fixed, go to a surgeon who specializes in only knees and hips and does over 400 procedures a year.

And if you need Bankruptcy help go to the person who does it everyday!

NEXT; The BK Attorney who does consumer work, like filing Chapter 13 or consumer 7's PROBABLY does not do Business Chapter 11's. Or business 7's

You might ask why don't they do it all? The answer is they are worlds apart as to procedures, paperwork and most importantly personal.

In the first installment I told you there are different rules in Bankruptcy Courts in Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Ana. All of these are in Southern California, all are federal, yet each has some different procedures or conditions. This is why today it is important that the person you hire knows ahead of time what those rules are.

NEXT; Many attorneys run multiple offices, both for efficiency, and also to gather clients from different locales. There is nothing wrong with this approach, nor a single attorney working themselves. Each can have issues.

With multi-offices you probably have supervision tracking, well separated classes of persons doing specific tasks and policies and procedures. A single attorney and staff might have to multi-task. Why is this important?

The answer is you as an individual walk in an office at a time of financial concern and insecurity; you may be experiencing fear, or at least uncertainty of what going to happen next, but probably hoping you are at the place where you will be helped. Your interaction with the staff and the attorney who will represent you is generally a short time period. You are in their hands. The second reason the size of the operation and their attitudes is important is that in addition to all those variables listed above your perception can have a major effect on how you go through this. And lastly on this list is the relationship the attorney and his/her office have with all the court personal. I see this is the very important!

If you read the above a few times you will see we are narrowing the proper choices. I am purposely omitting the other significant area that you should be concerned with. I will cover that and why many attorneys fail to even consider it, in services provided their clients.

As always this Blog is only for general information and education. All matters of law should be discussed with your legal representation.