

A CURE FOR URBAN OVERCROWDING

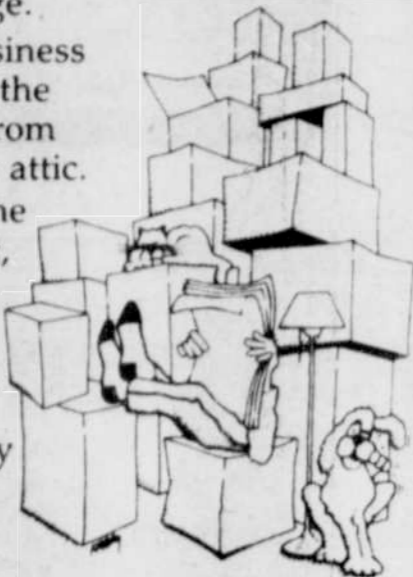
When you've run out of places to put things, and the boxes are taking over, it's time to call Downtown Self Storage.

From business records to the treasures from Grandma's attic. We have the convenient, low cost solution to your problem.

Call today for a copy of our brochure "The Advantages of Downtown Self Storage".

Get one month free with a one year lease, paid in advance

DOWNTOWN SELF STORAGE
N.W. 14th & Davis
Portland, Oregon 97209
241-4700



"Move on up to Professionals 100 ... You deserve the best."



Kathy Tysinger

287-8989 665-2936

- Residential, HUD Properties, Business Opportunities/Commercial.
- Free consultation: The Buying Process, Earnest Money Agreements, Competitive Market Analysis, Financing.
- Buying or Selling.
- City or Country.

"Professional and Quality Service for your special needs."

PROFESSIONALS 100

Professionals 100 Inc. Realtors
2100 N.E. Broadway Suite 2-A
Portland, Oregon 97232
287-8989

How to hire a lawyer

Just remember that you are the client who is going to pay your money for legal services.

BY BRADLEY J. WOODWORTH, Esq

Please note that no two situations are alike. This column discusses general legal principles only. For specific advice to rely on you must consult a qualified attorney.

No lawyer can be skilled in every area of the law or every type of case. You need to hire a lawyer who can effectively represent your legal problem. But many people have little idea of how to

.Counsel

go about hiring a lawyer, or are intimidated by the idea. Herewith are some suggestions on how to find a lawyer for you.

Most people sooner or later will need or want to retain the services of an attorney to help them solve a legal problem, enforce a legal right, or plan and guide the legal aspects of their personal or business affairs. While choosing a first lawyer or a new one can be intimidating, just remember — you are entitled to have a lawyer competent in your type case, reasonably enthusiastic about it, and with whom you feel comfortable. The first step in hiring a lawyer is to find a few lawyers to choose among. Some common ways of finding lawyers are:

- **Word of mouth.** If a friend, colleague or family member has had a good experience with a particular lawyer, be sure to get that lawyer's name! But don't go around asking, because people will often tell you how great their lawyer is if you ask (so they'll not have to admit otherwise). But unsolicited recommendations are very good sources of finding a lawyer — if you are similar to the person making the recommendation, and respect their judgement. Do not listen to people who talk loosely in bars or other public places about their legal problems and their great lawyer. They are not the type whose judgement should be respected in such matters.

- **Lawyer Referral Service.** The Oregon State Bar operates a free lawyer referral service. Any Oregon lawyer can sign up to be on the referral list by payment of a modest fee. When you call 224-6580 (1-800-452-7636 from outside the Portland

area) during business hours you will be given the names of three attorneys in your area who have said they are interested in your type case. When you go through this service, you can be sure of three things: the lawyer will give you an initial consultation (usually 20-30 minutes) for a flat \$20 fee; the lawyer is a member in good standing of the Oregon State Bar; and the lawyer has some interest in talking with "cold" referrals. It is up to you to interview these lawyers carefully (tips below).

- **Alternative media.** For a gay/lesbian supportive attorney check your local lesbian/gay and alternative press.

- **Yellow Pages.** The phone book has many pages of lawyer's names and many eye-catching (and expensive) advertisements. Many good lawyers advertise, and many don't. Many average and below lawyers also take out big phone book ads, so don't pick a lawyer from the ad size, or "cute" ad features. Look for a lawyer who appears interested in your type case if you must use the yellow pages, but beware: the listings under different headings in the book (civil rights, insurance) are just additional listings the attorney pays for. They are not certified legal specialties (which do not yet exist in Oregon), but do indicate the areas of law in which the attorney wants cases.

- **Other advertisements.** Some lawyers now have ads on radio and TV. This type of advertising is expensive, so it will usually lead you to a larger firm, or one that is rather aggressive. But some very aggressive lawyers handle a very large caseload and clients who need a lot of contact with their lawyer are occasionally frustrated with them. If you pick a lawyer from such an ad, be sure you feel comfortable when you interview him or her.

Select two or three lawyers — no more — and call to schedule an appointment. If you go through lawyer referral service, you should plan to pay \$20 for an initial consultation; otherwise, be sure to ask what the charge will be when you set up the appointment (many of the phone book ads — and my ad in this paper — offer an initial consultation for free) and go prepared to pay it. If you are screened on the phone or at the office by a secretary or

legal assistant, go along with it. They are key parts of your lawyer's team, and time spent with them could save your time and the attorney's and help make sure you get a lawyer interested in your case.

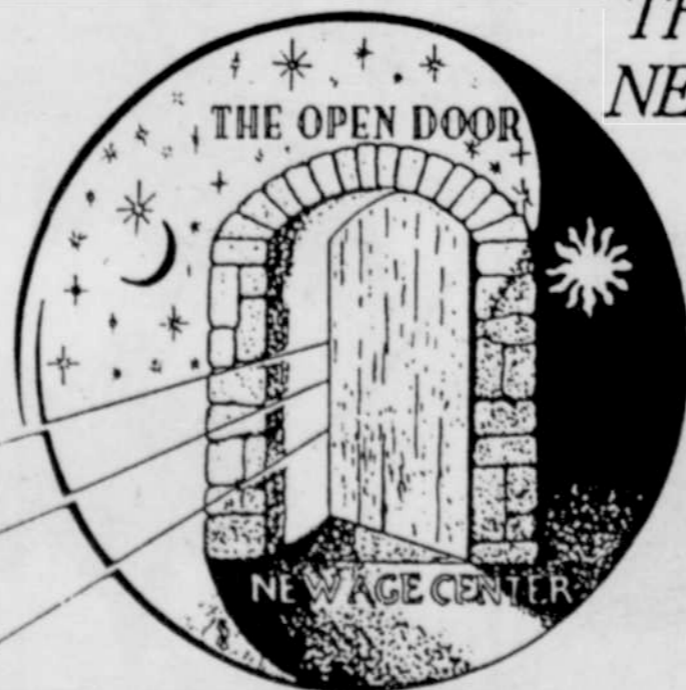
When you go to the initial interview, take copies of *all* documents, notices, contracts, deeds and the like in any way involved in your problem. The lawyer can disregard what is not needed, but cannot work without the key documents. Be completely honest with the lawyer. Do not try to hide or leave out the "bad news" — it will come out sooner or later. And secrets make trouble between lawyer and client. Don't have any.

Ask the lawyer about his or her experience with your type case, and their interest in such a case. If being "out" and gay is important to you, or some part of your case has a "gay theme" to it, or a lot of gay people involved, you might as well talk about that up front. It may not matter to you, but if it does, check out the attitudes you will be working with. Only when the lawyer seems interested in your case *and* you feel comfortable with the lawyer, ask about the fee arrangement, billing and retainer requirements (if any). Make sure you understand what and how the lawyer is going to charge you, and that you can afford to pay the bill. If you cannot, the lawyer may lose interest in your case, and want to withdraw as your attorney. When you understand the fee arrangement (more about common ones in a future column) *and* if you still feel comfortable with the lawyer, tell her or him that you would like to sleep on it. I recommend not hiring a lawyer during the initial consultation. It is a big decision, so give yourself time to let this person sink in. If it still seems like a good idea in the morning, go ahead and call back and form the attorney-client relationship.

Once you have hired a lawyer, give him/her time to do the job, try to listen carefully to the advice you get, carefully read the letters your attorney may send you and do the things that are asked of you. In the many cases when all goes well, a good result can often be reached for you, and you will have survived your need for the services of an attorney. Sometimes all does not go as planned, and a future column will talk about how to deal with problems you might have with a lawyer you hired.

The author is an attorney in private practice; he maintains offices in the Lloyd Center area.

THE OPEN DOOR NEW AGE CENTER



Books • New Age Music Workshops

Sunday channeled meditation at 10 a.m. — Private Sessions Available

Astrology • Numerology • Tarot Meditation • Healing

1644 N.E. Hwy 101
Lincoln City, Oregon 97367
992-2488

PEOPLE'S



A NATURAL FOOD STORE

3029 S.E. 21st
Portland, Oregon 97202
(1 block north of Powell Blvd.)
Tri-Met bus #9
phone 232-9051

Open 10-8, Monday to Saturday
12-7, Sunday