



Lemon Aid – Hiring a Lemon Law Attorney

The decision to hire an attorney for representation in a Lemon Law dispute is a serious one. The International Association of Lemon Law Administrators does not maintain a list of recommended attorneys, nor does it provide legal services. This brochure is intended to provide persons who may be considering hiring an attorney general information and questions to ask.

We recommend the following:

- Find out if the manufacturer can be ordered to pay your attorney's fees under your state's Lemon Law.
- Some law firms that advertise over the internet do not have physical offices in your state, nor is all of the information on the internet applicable to your state. Often this information is very general in nature and is meant to apply to people throughout the country.
- Before hiring an attorney, consumers should understand exactly how the attorney will calculate their fee and whether there will be additional charges, such as copying, faxing or telephone calls. The attorney should clearly explain the method by which their fee will be calculated.
- If the law firm is not in the city where the arbitration hearing will be held or is located outside your state, you should obtain the name and contact information of the attorney who will attend the hearing. You should also

inquire about whether the attorney has prior experience with the arbitration process and with your state's lemon law. An in-person conference or a telephone conference with the attorney is recommended before the day of the hearing.

- When you hire an attorney, the attorney is required to keep you informed of the progress of your case. The attorney should return phone calls and be accessible. The attorney should advise you when a settlement offer is made by a manufacturer and that it is then your decision whether to accept any such offer.
- If an attorney advises you to sue the manufacturer in court instead of going to an arbitration hearing, you should ensure that the attorney explains the reasons for this advice, the length of time it could take to pursue a court action and the risk associated.
- If the law firm's advertisement states that the firm can settle your claim within a specified time, or represents that it has settled a large number of lemon law claims, ask what types of settlements they have obtained and which type was the largest percentage of their total settlements.