

Paulose PLLC

Attorneys at Law

Attorneys:
Why Hire One?

**An educational bulletin for friends and
family**

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Paulose PLLC is a litigation and general counsel law firm. We prosecute and defend matters involving civil rights, personal injury, employment law, and consumer rights. We also help resolve business disputes, insurance coverage issues, and real estate litigation. This publication is a service to our friends and family. It is designed only to give general information on the subjects covered. It is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of the law, provide legal advice, or render legal opinion. It may be considered attorney advertising in certain jurisdictions. Past results do not guarantee future results.

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Attorneys

Why Hire One?

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Attorneys: Why Hire One?

We often tell people that if they're going to make friends, make sure they include a plumber, a mechanic, a doctor, and a lawyer. Then, whenever a common problem arises (i.e., a home leak, a car malfunction, a health issue, legal trouble), they are well prepared. Problem solvers are a phone call away.

Legal problems take many shapes and sizes, but most can be put into a few neat categories and



sub-categories. The first two categories are criminal and civil problems. If you're involved in a criminal matter, you need a criminal lawyer. There is no exception to this rule. We are talking about the loss of your liberty after all: jail, prison, the gulag, whatever. You do not want to lose your freedom. So do not skimp in this area. Mortgage your house if you have to and pay for a really good defense lawyer. There is no exception to this rule.

If you're involved in a civil matter, you need a lawyer too, but with one exception. Civil matters are those matters that do not involve the criminal justice system. Think real estate closings, divorces, bankruptcies, personal injury litigation, contract drafting or review, and business creation or development, to name a few. We sometimes tell people, if

they're smart, they usually can survive without a lawyer in any of these areas. Indeed, many of the most successful business leaders hardly let their lawyers dictate their actions; rather, they usually dictate their lawyers' actions.

The reality however is that you're most likely not one of these business leaders. So we're going to recommend that you hire a lawyer for all civil matters. The civil justice machine is a huge machine with lots of gears, cranks, crankshafts, and belts. Have you ever purchased a home? Take a glance at all the players and paperwork involved in that one transaction. Do you know what everything means? Unlikely. Worse, do you know what could happen if you agree to something that you don't understand? Very bad things. So don't risk it; it's best to hire a lawyer.

A sub-category of the civil justice system is litigation work (as opposed to transactional work, such as that involved in a real estate closing or contract drafting and review). In litigation, you're either suing someone or someone is suing you. Personal injury, employment, and business disputes are common areas involving litigation. If you're the one being sued, you need a lawyer right away. We would even consider the need to have a



lawyer here equivalent to the urgency to have one in criminal matters. Do not try to represent yourself in court when you're the one being sued. Sometimes, a judgment against you, even a small one, and the subsequent collection on that judgment, can feel like a loss of liberty. Ever have your bank freeze your account or your employer sequester your pay to satisfy a judgment? Think of how that could throw your world upside down. So if you're being sued, hire a lawyer right away.

On the other hand, if you're the one suing someone, you have some



discretion. The courts in New York, whether state or federal, are required to treat all pro se claimants (those suing without an attorney) with great forgiveness. So if you make a mistake, it may not be the end of your efforts; the court may allow you to fix the mistake if possible.

But why go through that? If the matter were important enough for you to sue, why not spend the money to hire a good lawyer? You're almost guaranteed a better result. It behooves you to do so. While it may initially feel unusual to part with money to pay a good lawyer, you'll appreciate it later when he gets you the returns you are due.

-Mat Paulose Jr., Esq.

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