



CRISCIONE | RAVALA, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

7 Fatal Mistakes When Hiring a Lawyer

Mistake #1: A Larger Law Firm is Always the Best Option

In the search for legal counsel, it may be easier to pick a larger or well-advertised law firm. That does not necessarily result in working with better, more qualified, or diligent attorneys. Avoid being lost in a plethora of clients. Smaller firms make for a more personalized, one-on-one experience with an attorney. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, we offer our clients direct access to a well-qualified and competent lawyer, exceptional value and expertise, and personal attention to detail their case deserves.

Mistake #2: Hiring the Cheapest Lawyer

Legal representation can get expensive but cost alone should not be the defining factor in choosing a lawyer. It is always best to make one's decision to hire counsel based on a number of factors including ability, follow-up, and reputation. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, we are mindful of the changing legal marketplace to provide our clients with top-dollar value in the form of a variety of fee arrangements to suit their needs. We offer reasonable hourly rates, contingency fee, and hybrid fee arrangements, and special pricing for repeat clients, non-profits, military veterans, and senior citizens.

Mistake #3: Taking Shortcuts

With a plethora of sample documents and contracts available on the internet, it is easy to duplicate legal documents and self-represent without realizing the severe and taxing consequences at a later date. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, our lawyers take the time to understand each client's unique legal needs while using our expertise to provide customized solutions tailored just for them.

Mistake #4: Lack of Communication

In everyday life, it may be common to omit certain truths for more favorable outcomes. However, the opposite is true when dealing with your attorney. Relaying every detail possible regarding your case is one of the most important factors in the outcome of your case. At Criscione Ravala, LLP we listen attentively to our clients' concerns and keep them informed on the progress of their case. We respect the trust our clients place in us and we're mindful of ensuring timely and responsive follow-up.

Mistake #5: Always Being in Litigation Mode

Fierce and zealous advocacy is paramount to success in every case but always being in litigation mode can be a recipe for disaster if the realities of the case are ignored. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, our lawyers regularly engage in courtroom litigation as well as arbitration and mediation, but we also look at the case with a 360-degree view. We work hand-in-hand with our clients, never forgetting their objectives and vigorously pursuing their case in an effective but also strategic and efficient manner.

Mistake #6: Being Disorganized

Legal matters often involve a variety of documents and voluminous paperwork. Not having files handy or storing them on a coffee table or a locker is simply not an option. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, we use state of the art technologies to ensure client data is kept confidential and organized. As a modern, 21st Century law firm, we also maintain electronic copies of all paperwork related to a client's file so our clients can relax knowing that their documents and files are safe, secure, and just a click away.

Mistake #7: Ignoring a Lawyer's Reputation

Do not be fooled by advertising. While referrals from family, friends or other attorneys could be of great help, always check to see that the information is accurate and all sources are credible. At Criscione Ravala, LLP, our lawyers have been recognized for their strong legal ability and highest ethical standards by leading lawyer review organizations such as *Thomson Reuters* and *Martindale-Hubbell*. Our lawyers also regularly speak on panels, publish articles, and serve as leaders in various bar associations and community organizations.

We are determined to create successful and long-lasting relationships with the people, businesses, and institutions we represent. The bottom line in our relationship with clients is, of course, "results" — the ultimate measure of the effectiveness of any law firm. We at Criscione Ravala, LLP are committed to overcoming difficult situations in achieving our clients' goals — and to doing it time after time.

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