

How To Choose A Lawyer

By Attorney Brian Lenahan



Attorney Brian Lenahan

After a serious personal injury you will almost certainly not be prepared to handle the many often complicated steps you need to take to preserve your rights. You will need help; you will need a law firm to help guide you.

While of course we hope you will call Lenahan & Dempsey, there are many things you need to keep in mind when trying to find a lawyer. The first step is determining how potential law firms want to be paid.

At Lenahan & Dempsey, we almost always ask to take your case on what's known as a "Contingency Basis" - that means we take on the financial responsibility to fight for you. We pay the costs associated with bringing your case to court - we are paid **ONLY** if we win money for you. Our firm has been fighting for the injured since 1948. Our size (we are thought to be the largest Personal Injury firm in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania) has enabled us to have the resources needed to fight for our clients and to have the financial resources that allow us to protect you from the costs of bringing a successful Personal Injury case.

In addition to payment, here is a list of the top 5 items you need to consider when working with a law firm:

1. Find a Law Firm With Outstanding Resources - When you are injured you will most likely be fighting against a large insurance company. The insurance company will be represented by a lawyer or most often, a team of lawyers. You will need a law firm with the resources to take on giant insurance companies and their lawyers. The resources offered by a law firm can play a large role in deciding the outcome of your case.

What To Look For: Ask potential lawyers or law firms about the resources they can dedicate to your case. The resources you may need can come in the form of multiple lawyers who can work on your case, a large support staff to assist the lawyers, access to a national network of specialized witnesses, multiple offices which can make fighting for your rights more comfortable for you as you will have to meet often with your lawyers.

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2. Find A Law Firm With Financial Strength - It can often be very expensive to successfully win a Personal Injury case. Specialized witnesses such as accident reconstruction experts, medical experts and others have to be hired (and paid) to testify on your behalf. Make sure your law firm has the financial resources to properly fight for your rights.

What To Look For: Ask potential law firms if they have the finances to pay for the costs needed in your case. While the outcomes of each case are dependent on multiple factors ask the law firms about similar cases they have taken on - ask about the outcomes - ask about the costs associated with those cases - ask how they carried the costs of those cases. As we noted above, at Lenahan & Dempsey, due to our size, we take on these costs for our clients and we are paid **ONLY** when we obtain money on your behalf.

3. Find Out How A Firm Is Thought Of By Judges and Peers - You need to know how potential firms are perceived by others in the profession. This is not as difficult to determine as it may seem.

What To Look For: Martindale Hubble (www.martindale.com) is a leading resource which conducts Peer Reviews on lawyers and law firms. For example, Lenahan & Dempsey maintains a Martindale Peer Review Rating of AV[®] Preeminent[™] 5.0 out of 5.0 - this is the highest possible rating. Visit the Martindale website - look up potential lawyers and law firms and pay careful attention to their Peer Review Rating.

4. Ask How Potential Law Firms Have Handled Other Personal Injury Cases - Again, the outcomes of cases are dependent on multiple factors and a firm's performance in one case is not necessarily an indication on how they will perform on another, but it is still important to investigate potential law firms.

What To Look For: Ask law firms to provide you with a list of Settlements & Verdicts. Many firms such as Lenahan & Dempsey post these on their websites. Ours is at www.LenahanDempsey.com

5. Make Sure Potential Law Firms Are Legally Available To Take Your Case - All practicing lawyers need to pass a state Bar Examination in order to be licensed. In Pennsylvania as with many other states, lawyers who practice also need to be in good standing with the court.

What To Look For: The Pennsylvania Bar Association suggests you call the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania at (717) 231-3380 or go to their website at www.padisiplinaryboard.org and look up potential lawyers. Their status should be listed as "Active."

There are countless other issues that need to be addressed. You need to feel comfortable with the law firm and lawyers you choose. You need to know a law firm is not overwhelmed by large and often difficult cases.

If you have a question about a potential case, please feel free to call us at Lenahan & Dempsey. The call and the consultation are of course free. Contact us at 1-888-LENAHAN (1-888-536-2426).

Why Not Deal Directly With The Insurance Company After A Serious Personal Injury?

By Attorney Timothy Lenahan



Attorney Timothy Lenahan

If you have been seriously injured in an accident, the insurance company representing those who hurt you will treat you fairly- right? Not necessarily.

I have personally worked on countless cases for clients where insurance companies have not been fair in their dealings with an injured person. One case immediately comes to mind and it's the subject of the latest Lenahan & Dempsey television commercial "My Son."

The commercial tells the story of a Lenahan & Dempsey client who was seriously and permanently injured in a car accident. The injured man was only 20 years old at the time he was hurt. The insurance company contacted the family and pointed out the injured man did not have full tort insurance and needed money immediately. The insurance company representatives offered the family \$10,000. At the time the young man need the money and almost accepted the offer - but then his mother insisted they call Lenahan & Dempsey.

To make a long story short, our attorneys were able to cross the legal thresholds necessary to help the victim, who again only had limited tort insurance. Instead of settling for \$10,000 offered by the insurance company, I was able to negotiate a multi-million dollar settlement that will help the young man take care of what will be life-long medical treatment and living expenses.

This story, while a cautionary true story almost turned into a double tragedy for my client. He was hurt in the accident and then received what we at Lenahan & Dempsey felt was an inadequate offer to take care of his long term medical needs and day to day expenses.

You should also always have legal representation because of the fact personal injury cases are often highly complicated. There are usually a number of actions that need to be taken right away in order to protect your rights and to protect your ability to recover damages.

At Lenahan & Dempsey we have been helping the seriously injured for 64 years. If you or a loved one has been seriously injured, contact us with your questions. The call and the consultation are always free. And there's never a fee for our services unless we win money for you. You can reach us at 1-888-LENAHAN (1-888-536-2426).

Visit us online and see what we have done for other seriously injured clients.

Call us and find out what we can do for you.

LENAHAN & DEMPSEY REPRESENTATIVE
VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS*



\$ 15,000,000.00	Verdict	Medical Negligence
\$ 13,600,000.00	Settlement	Insurance Bad Faith
\$ 6,775,000.00	Verdict	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 5,000,000.00	Settlement	Mistreatment of Disabled Children
\$ 4,601,387.00	Settlement	Insurance Bad Faith
\$ 4,500,000.00	Settlement	Work Place Injury
\$ 4,350,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 3,078,825.00	Verdict	Insurance Bad Faith
\$ 2,700,000.00	Verdict	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,600,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,520,809.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,500,000.00	Verdict	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,700,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,625,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,600,000.00	Verdict	Medical Negligence
\$ 1,460,000.00	Settlement	Pedestrian Injury
\$ 1,350,000.00	Settlement	Pedestrian Injury
\$ 1,200,000.00	Verdict	Medical Negligence
\$ 1,130,000.00	Settlement	Work Place Injury
\$ 1,000,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,000,000.00	Verdict	Personal Property
\$ 1,000,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision

* The facts of each case are different. No specific results are implied. Descriptions of awards in previous cases are no guarantee of future results and should not create any expectations that our firm, or any firm, can achieve similar results in another case.

At Lenahan & Dempsey, we are proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary on WNEP-TV's Ask The Legal Professional. Visit us at www.LenahanDempsey.com or at wnep.com and click on "Ask The Professional."



1-888-LENAHAN

To visit Lenahan & Dempsey, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Lenahan & Dempsey Offices

We maintain offices throughout Northeast, Central Pennsylvania and The Poconos to serve our clients. We also offer home, hospital and nursing home consultations.

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Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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