

Immigration Lawyers: *Your passport to Canada*



**A guide to your rights and the
advantages of using an immigration lawyer**



ONTARIO
BAR ASSOCIATION
A Branch of the
Canadian Bar Association

Protect your rights. Hire a lawyer.

Your rights as an immigration client:

- You have the right to expect a degree of competence and knowledge demonstrated by the lawyer handling your case.
- You have the right to be kept informed regarding the status of your case, and to be provided with copies of documents filed on your behalf.
- You have the right to expect a high standard of ethics and service from your lawyer.
- You have the right to review a form to be filed on your behalf before you sign it.
- You have the right to a complete accounting of your case.

Many people who otherwise qualify for Canadian immigration see their dreams shattered because they do not seek out legal advice from a qualified immigration lawyer and opt for shortcuts or fall prey to unscrupulous individuals.

Don't let that happen to you!



Why should I retain a lawyer for my immigration case ?

Extensive Training

Lawyers complete extensive training before being permitted to represent clients. Lawyers benefit from several years of training in law school, in a variety of areas of the law.

Ongoing Education

Lawyers are required to undergo continuing training by attending legal education seminars and workshops on a regular basis. Lawyers must report annually on their educational activities to their regulatory bodies in order to maintain their license.

High Ethical Standards

Lawyers are required to maintain high ethical standards in all their activities. In the immigration context, this means that they cannot make representations, promises, or provide “guarantees” of success, or fail to provide services agreed upon with you.

Confidentiality Guaranteed

Lawyers are bound by rules of confidentiality and cannot reveal information about your case to others, including Citizenship and Immigration, without your permission.

Accountable

Lawyers are supervised by well established provincial law societies, which can discipline lawyers who fall short of professional standards or behave unethically.

Knowledgeable

Contrary to popular belief, Citizenship and Immigration Canada forms and applications are not simple and require careful thought in completing. In fact, the immigration process is technical and time consuming with rules and procedures that change on a regular basis. An error can lead to the refusal of an application and the loss of processing fees, or cause significant delays. An immigration lawyer who has experience with the system can protect and inform you about all legal and regulatory developments. **An error can lead to the refusal of an application, the loss of processing fees, cause significant delays, and permanent damage to your prospects of immigrating to Canada.**

Qualified to Provide Advice

Citizenship and Immigration Canada officers do not provide legal advice and cannot assume responsibility for discussing your legal options. They represent the Government of Canada and their job is to enforce the law. Only lawyers are qualified to provide you with the appropriate legal advice.

Immigration Lawyers

*protect your rights
and prevent costly mistakes*



ONTARIO
BAR ASSOCIATION
A Branch of the
Canadian Bar Association

L'ASSOCIATION DU
BARREAU DE L'ONTARIO
Une division de l'Association
du Barreau canadien