

2.00 | INTRODUCTION

Bringing a lawsuit can be time consuming and complicated. While it is possible to navigate the federal judicial system on your own, having an experienced attorney to help you can improve your chances of doing things properly and getting a result with which you are happy. While some lawyers are expensive to hire, there are several options for hiring a lawyer that will cost you little or no money. In general, the options are: (1) hiring a lawyer who will work on a "contingency" basis; (2) finding a lawyer to take on your case "pro bono" (meaning at no cost to you); and (3) asking the court to appoint counsel for you. These options are discussed in more detail below.

It is important to note that in a criminal case, a defendant is entitled to legal counsel by the United States Constitution, and one is provided if the criminal defendant is unable to hire a lawyer. However, a party to a civil case is not entitled to an attorney paid for by the government, even if he or she cannot afford one.

(Federal Bar Association: Access to Justice Task Force. © 2019.

Honorable Mention: USNYND, USCAND)

