

2.01 | COUNSEL PERFORMING WORK ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS OR PRO BONO

There are several options to find a lawyer to represent you even if you cannot afford to pay for legal services. For example, some attorneys may be willing to accept a reduced fee or lenient fee payment schedule to take on your case. Some attorneys also offer "limited representation," meaning that they may help you evaluate your case, or draft a pleading, without requiring that you hire them for the entire case. Other attorneys may be willing to accept your case on a contingent fee basis, which means the attorney would receive a fee based upon a percentage of your recovery if you win your case and would receive nothing if you do not win. If you would like assistance in finding an attorney who may consider taking your case on a contingency or "limited representation" basis, there are lawyer-referral services that may be able to help you. For a list of the Lawyer Referral Services located within the Federal District you wish to file your claim, check your district court's website.

In addition to lawyers who will work for reduced fees or on a contingency basis, many lawyers offer "pro bono" legal assistance. This means that a lawyer will represent you, but will not charge you any money for their time or work, and (generally) will not take a portion of anything you recover. If you prefer to have an attorney represent you, but you are unable to pay to retain one, you should consider contacting a local legal services office or state bar association. You may also call law firms and ask whether they have a pro bono practice and if you would qualify for such assistance.

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