



Real Estate Lawyer Interview Checklist



Lawyer / Notary Interview Checklist

Purchasing a home is likely your single largest financial investment and also represents your greatest financial risk. Your real estate agent is there to help guide and advise you through the buying process, and can help you find a qualified real estate lawyer. Most agents have a team of professionals to assist you in purchasing your home and this team will include a lawyer.

Asking the following questions will help ensure that your potential real estate lawyer holds experience that best fits your needs.



1. How Long Have They Been Practicing Law?

Experience is not everything, but the number of cases the lawyer has handled successfully is an important fact to consider. It can also be an indication of how much knowledge they have of the complex issues involved in buying a house.

This includes:

- Legal implications of property survey
- Previous owner's right to sell or disagreements over land boundaries

When the legal issues are reasonably straightforward, there is no harm in hiring a lawyer with less experience. The important thing is that you are confident in the lawyer's ability to respond to and research any questions that may arise.

2. How Long Have They Been Involved with Real Estate Law?

Understand not only how long they have practiced law, but how long they have specialized in real estate law. Depending on your situation you may require someone with more experience handling real estate specific cases.

3. Where Did They Graduate?

Inquire about where they received their accreditation from, and ask for proof if necessary. If you are unsure of the school, do your research to ensure it is an accredited institution.

4. How Long Have They Worked on Real Estate in This Province?

This question is particularly important if the lawyer graduated from another province. Requirements and laws can differ from province to province and this could have an effect on how your case is handled. If the lawyer has been practicing in the province for only a short time, ensure you feel they are familiar enough with all of the provincial laws to properly take on your case.

5. Have They Dealt With Similar Cases Before?

The more complex the case, the less likely it is that the lawyer has come across anything similar before. However, if the lawyer handled a similar case successfully that is a positive sign that they are the right fit.

6. How Will They Proceed With Your Case?

There is nothing wrong with requesting a breakdown or an outline.

The lawyer should take the opportunity to provide you with specific information including: whom they will talk to, an explanation of each step and how long they expect the process to take.

If they won't discuss these questions, or give vague promises about 'getting it done,' question whether you're comfortable with this uncertainty before hiring them.

7. Will Anyone Else Be Working on the Case?

It is not unusual for lawyers to work in a team with trainees, newly qualified lawyers and personal assistants. By knowing who these people are and what their role is, you will know whom to contact regarding specific questions.

8. How Will I Be Billed?

Inquire if the lawyer will be billing for hours worked or a flat fee, and what the fee includes. Ask about any additional costs, such as notary fees, court fees and additional survey fees. Have all of these costs in writing before any work is undertaken.



RE/MAX[®]

Connect With an Agent Today

Let us guide you through your home buying journey.
Get in touch with one of our expert agents.

 **Connect Now!**