



### **Toolkit for Divorcing with Dignity**

#### **Tip Sheet #9: Finding a divorce lawyer**

Going through a divorce can be both mentally and emotionally draining. With so many changes happening at once, finding a divorce lawyer may be imperative to help you navigate through the divorce process. Below are some things to consider as you decide on a lawyer for yourself.

- 1) **Realize your needs:** Before picking someone to represent you, ask yourself what you want out of the settlement. Also ask yourself what your personal preferences are. It can be ideal for someone representing you to best understand your situation.
- 2) **Do Some Research:** Make a list of divorce lawyers that stand out. Once you have a finalized list, you can narrow it down specifically by looking for a lawyer that specializes in the type of process you're looking for (i.e. through court, mediation or other avenues).
- 3) **Form a Budget:** Before choosing a lawyer, calculate your budget. Depending on the firm, the individual attorney, and their years of experience, rates may be costly.
- 4) **Ask Questions:** Take advantage of the free consultations that some firms may provide. Bring a list of key questions to ask such as: years of experience, type of clientele, experience in the court room, etc.
- 5) **Get Recommendations:** If you know of anyone who has went through a divorce and you feel comfortable talking to them, ask if they have any recommended divorce lawyers. Count on your social circle, they will most likely provide you with the most honest and helpful advice.