Tips to Finding an Immigration Attorney

How do I find the name of a lawyer?
● Ask a friend, especially one who has had a problem like yours, for the name of his or her lawyer;
● Ask a professional person, such as a doctor, minister, social worker, banker, or business person whom you know and trust;
● Call San Antonio Bar Association lawyer referral service (210.227.1853). If there is no lawyer referral service in your area, call toll-free 1-877-9TEXBAR from anywhere in Texas to reach the statewide Lawyer Referral Service;
● Visit your local library. Many libraries have law directories, such as the Texas Legal Directory or Martindale-Hubbell, which give a brief biography of lawyers practicing in your area and elsewhere, and telephone directories contain listings of attorneys in your area. Some attorneys will list the areas of law in which they prefer to practice. Others show themselves as being “board certified” in one or more specific areas of law, which means that the lawyer has met certain criteria established by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

How do I choose a lawyer?
Before you make an appointment to see a lawyer, call the offices of the lawyers on your list. Find out with whom you are speaking, briefly explain your legal problem and ask:
● Does the lawyer have experience with your situation?
● Does the lawyer charge for an initial interview? If so, what is the charge?
● If you believe your problem is routine: Does the lawyer have a standard fee for this kind of problem? What does the fee cover?
● If your problem is more complicated or the lawyer does not have a standard fee: What is the lawyer’s hourly fee?
● Does the lawyer provide a written agreement describing fees and services provided for the fees?
● Keep a list of the information and think about the answers you receive from the lawyers or their office representatives. Then call back to make an appointment with the attorney whose answers satisfied you the most.

How do I prepare and what should I take to the first interview?
Plan to go to the first interview with an open mind. You do not have to decide to employ the lawyer with whom you are interviewing until you have had time to evaluate the interview. When you go to your initial meeting, it is important to have with you a written summary or detailed notes about your situation. Prepare a list of questions for the lawyer, such as:
● Are you specialized and/or experienced in my type of problem?
● Will you or one of your associates be handling my case?
● Will you regularly contact me about my case’s status?