
PHASE 7: Forum Assessment

Where will you Pursue your Dispute?

This final phase directs you to the appropriate Forum for your case and the resources to help you through the associated legal process. Depending on your Legal Options, you will be directed to one of the following four Forums: Mediation, Arbitration, Small Claims Court or the Upper Civil Courts. If Mediation, you are also provided with the appropriate Forum if Mediation does not resolve your dispute. Armed with the legal reasoning you encountered answering these questions and with the aid of the analysis applied, you should feel empowered about the best direction to take with your dispute.

Always remember, Settlement is going to be your best option. Continually propose this option not because your case is weak but because you understand the psychological and financial cost in going to court, especially if your Forum is the Upper Civil Courts. Settlement should also focus on making the battle ahead as the adversary, not your opposing party.

Your Forum is Small Claims.

The Case of the Crafty Computer Consultant

Betty's Forum is the Upper Civil Court system. As it turns out, Betty cannot settle her dispute with Chris or obtain his consent to Mediation and/or Arbitration.

Betty's projected Net Damages of \$7,498 gives her an idea of where she will end up after trial in the Upper Civil Courts. She doesn't like the idea of spending so much time, energy and money just to net this amount. She could make a lot more directing her energy toward her business which is doing well. She would rather spend her time and money continuing to build her business instead of spending years litigating with Chris.

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Before taking her next step, she's trying to rationalize reducing her claim to fit the Small Claims limit. She also wants to understand if some of her loss can be written off on her taxes. If not, Crafty mentioned giving her some computer equipment in settlement. She could use more equipment if her business keeps booming.

Betty can always opt to hire an attorney to represent her in the Upper Civil Courts, but before doing so she wants to consider every other option with an open mind. She's got a lot of good things going on in her life and doesn't want to spend a lot of energy in a prolonged court battle.

Conclusion

You can see how Lawsuit Analyzer© scrutinizes each component of your case and performs a series of critical assessments. No matter what course of action you take after completing Lawsuit Analyzer®, you will be far more informed about your legal choices and the consequences of each. Please remember, though, this analysis is just a projection based on your input and many differing variables.

While Lawsuit Analyzer® considers global factors outside of legal assessment, keep in mind that an attorney's opinion may be better when it comes to legally evaluating your case and the laws of your State. Whether you hire an attorney or not, this assessment will have informed you of the potential legal reasoning to be applied to your dispute and can serve as a roadmap to the multitude of factors that must be considered before you can make intelligent choices.

[Go to Small Claims Court](#)