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5 Tips for Finding a Good Patent Attorney

In order to be commercially successful, ideas need to be properly developed and marketed. Team and execution are usually the most important factors. However, protecting the idea with available intellectual property rights is often a critical initial step and typically requires preparing, filing and prosecuting one or more patent applications. Deciding which law firm or patent attorney to work with is often a challenge.

Here are some tips to consider when selecting a patent attorney or agent to work with:

1. Avoid the "idea marketing" firms often listed in Google searches. As stated by the US Patent Office "Every year invention promotion scams cost U.S. inventors an estimated \$200 million". Beware.
2. Find a patent attorney or agent who has written many patent applications and request samples. If the invention is important, an experienced patent attorney is recommended.
3. Find a patent attorney or agent who has written patent applications in related technologies by searching published applications and patents on the uspto.gov website. You can often determine the attorney who drafted and filed the application from the submissions or published applications.
4. Find a nearby patent attorney or agent if you are more comfortable working face-to-face. You can search for patent attorney's in your area using the US Patent Office website <https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/>.
5. Cost should always be a factor, but like anything else, "you get what you pay for". If possible, use a cost-effective law firm with an entrepreneurial spirit. Be sure to ask about rates and about who will actually be doing the work.