

## **Been Sued? Online Legal Services Can Help**

**By John N. Skiba, Arizona Attorney**

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### **Online Legal Services Reduce the Cost of Litigation**

Just as you are settling in to watch the evening news or catch up on the latest episode of Modern Family you TiVoed, you get a knock at the door and get hit with legal papers from a process server. You have officially been served. The debt that you haven't heard from in a while and were hoping would just go away has reared its ugly head in the form of a lawsuit.

When clients come into meet with me for bankruptcy or other legal services it is often spurred on by them receiving a summons and complaint. If you have ever been sued or you your self have had to sue someone you know that the court system is not always as user friendly as it could be. The alternative to representing yourself is to hire a lawyer, which can be very expensive. I have a fairly extensive background in representing clients in litigation and was always amazed that anyone could actually afford to litigate any matter.

There is where the online legal services I offer can help. In the traditional way of representing clients in a court case the attorney does all the work. Usually there is a retainer that is paid up front (in Arizona this is usually \$5,000-\$10,000); and then the attorney bills every six minutes of their time towards the case. You can see how quickly things can get out of hand. Through "unbundled" or limited scope online legal services you can save costs by representing yourself and at the same time enjoy the assistance of any attorney to help guide you through the court process and even help you in drafting documents that need to be filed with the court.

### **Responding to a Lawsuit**

For instance, if you have been served with a lawsuit, in Arizona you typically have 20 days to respond by filing a written response called an Answer. If you don't do this you risk having a judgment entered against you which in turn can result in a garnishment of your wages or bank account. By hiring my office through my online legal services I can help you in drafting the Answer and providing you with advice and strategy on how to successfully navigate the court system - all at a fraction of the cost of the traditional way a lawyer would handle your case.

Not only is the legal fee dramatically reduced in limited scope representation, but the fees from my office are not billed hourly but are flat fees. This allows you to know what the costs are upfront and control the amount that is spent. No more getting surprised with a bill for thousands of dollars at the end of the month.

## **You Control Your Case**

I am upfront with clients that limited scope representation or unbundled legal services is not for everyone. If you are not comfortable doing some of the leg-work yourself this may not be a good option. But if you are, the online legal services I offer will allow you to not only reduce costs, but allow you to remain in control of your case. You call the shots, but with the aide of an attorney to advise you along the way.

You can visit my Self-Help Legal Center and see exactly what legal services I offer and better yet you can see exactly what it will cost you to hire my firm. No hiding the ball - it is all right there in black and white. You can **CLICK HERE** to learn more about it or give me a call at (480) 420-4028. I can also be reached via email at [john@skibalaw.com](mailto:john@skibalaw.com).