

## Find Solicitors on the Internet – A Consumer Guide to Legal Sites

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**The Internet is now used more than any other source (apart from friends and family) to find a solicitor:**

The Internet has dramatically changed the way we find information about and compare products and services. Many of us are already using the Internet to source and purchase a range of products and services from DVDs and books through to travel and insurance.

Now, the importance of the Internet as an information source is spreading into new markets and one of these is legal services: websites are emerging to help you find a solicitor and choose the right legal representation for you.

Choosing a solicitor is an important decision but it is not always that simple to find solicitors and choose the right one for you. Traditional methods include local phone books and directories but these tell you nothing about the quality of service available or the suitability of a specific legal adviser for your specific problem.

These new websites offer more effective ways to find a solicitor and some of the leading sites are described below.

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### The legal websites:

I am a co-founder and part owner of one such site – [www.legallybetter.com](http://www.legallybetter.com) which is a legal services directory site based on consumer reviews and ratings of their solicitors and lawyers – so you can see what other people have said about the quality of service from their solicitors and lawyers and then contact any solicitor or law firm that you like the sound of to obtain more details.

It is bringing word of mouth about solicitors to the Internet and filling a clear gap according to the findings of a recent consumer survey:

***A YouGov survey of 2,000 consumers in December 2009 found that 68% of those interviewed were largely ignorant of what lawyers do and noted that "the public feels disempowered when it comes to comparing services and choosing a lawyer – only 14% have shopped around for the right lawyer".***

***However, more than three-quarters were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services they received from their law firm and 67% would be "fairly likely" or "very likely" to recommend the firm to their friends or family.***

There are other sites which will give you contact details for relevant law firms for your legal problem if you are prepared to give some details about your specific legal issue.

We are all becoming familiar with comparison sites in other sectors, such as insurance, but many of these are looking for the best priced deals for a specific type of product. Given the complicated nature of many legal issues, a simple price comparison rarely works so legallybetter.com (and most other legal sites) is not a price comparison site but focuses on other areas such as quality of services, communications with the client etc .

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### Some sites to check out:

#### [www.legallybetter.com](http://www.legallybetter.com)

Legallybetter's unique feature is that it brings consumer reviews and ratings of solicitors from around the UK together in one place to enable other law firm users to compare solicitors and compare lawyers. All reviews and ratings are verified and come from genuine clients and focus on service quality and value not price.

Visitors to the site looking to find a solicitor in a specific locality or covering a specific practice area can check the ones reviewed by other clients through a free simple search with no registration needed from the home page. Once Legallybetter has a client review for a specific law firm the law firm can join the site. Membership is free and there are no introducer or referral charges so the site is completely independent.

#### [www.qualitysolicitors.com](http://www.qualitysolicitors.com)

At qualitysolicitors.com, the user fills in a form covering the type of legal issue that they are interested in and the site then matches the user to a solicitor for the type of law needed after calling/emailing back to the user to discuss their needs in more detail. Law firms and solicitors pay an annual membership fee to be on the site.

#### [www.takelegaladvice.com](http://www.takelegaladvice.com)

Takelegaladvice describes itself as a "matching service" where individuals/businesses register and fill out a form with their specific legal issue, location, and personal details and the site then matches these to relevant law firms. The site also gives an estimate of the cost involved. No referral fees are involved but the site obtains revenue from advertising from law firms and others.

#### [www.bidlegal.co.uk](http://www.bidlegal.co.uk)

Having submitted details (including name and address) in a 3-stage register process, the user's 'case' is submitted to lawyers to bid for. The user is emailed the bids by law firms interested in taking the case and a price is quoted. The law firm's identity is kept secret from the user – and vice versa - until a decision is made to use a particular lawyer. Law firms pay a registration fee to join the site and then an annual membership fee.

#### [www.contactlaw.co.uk](http://www.contactlaw.co.uk)

Contactlaw is a Thomson Reuters web site where visitors can telephone or fill in a form online giving details of their legal requirements. Once the form is submitted, or the phone call made, someone from Contactlaw then phones the potential client back to obtain more information. The final stage is that the potential client is introduced to a preferred solicitor.

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**legallybetter.com** The solicitor comparison site

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