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5 Ways to Challenge Witness Credibility

To win a lawsuit, you may have to challenge the credibility of a witness. Five common ways to challenge someone's credibility include:



1. **Interested.** The witness may have a personal stake in the case.
2. **Unreliable.** For a variety of reasons, a witness may be unreliable such as a tendency to lie or distort the truth to make himself seem more important.
3. **Lacking Knowledge.** The witness may not have a good vantage point of the accident or did not see the entire incident.
4. **Unqualified.** Expert witnesses may be exposed as being unqualified. For example, if a witness does not have the proper credentials, he may not be able to testify to matters like the speed of cars.
5. **Personal Reasons.** There may be personal reasons why a witness may be not credible such as someone with an axe to grind.

Can a Defense Attorney Settle Your Case

If you are negotiating a settlement with a defense attorney, you are likely to hear the standard refrain that the defense attorney does not have the ultimate authority to settle and will have to get the approval of the insurance company.



You should know that in many cases, this refrain is simply not true. Generally, the defense attorney will enter negotiations with clear marching orders from the insurance company on how much he can settle for. Only in extreme circumstances, will the insurance company require the attorney to get a second approval.

There are many reasons why a defense attorney may tell you that he cannot settle. These reasons can include:

1. To buy time
2. To leverage a settlement offer by saying that he would like to settle, but the insurance company demands less
3. To avoid settling small and medium sized claims

How the Economy May Affect Your Personal Injury Trial

You may like to think of your personal injury claim like it is in a bubble. But in reality, your case may be considered in the much larger picture within the local and federal economy. Some ways the condition of the economy may affect your claim include:



1. **Settlement.** If resources are low for state and federal courts, judges may urge you to settle as oppose to using scarce court resources to litigate your claim.
2. **Costs and Fees.** Court costs and fees may be increased impacting your decision to bring a lawsuit in the first place.
3. **Expectations.** You may think twice about filing a lawsuit if the pot of money you plan to collect does not exist. Defendants just might not have the ability to pay out.
4. **Insurance.** It can be especially difficult to collect from tight-fisted insurance companies during down times.

Your case is important to us. If we can't help you, we'll do our best to refer you to someone who can.

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Wishing you success,