There was once a man who got into some serious trouble with one of his neighbors. There seemed to be no way to settle the conflict between them. Everywhere he went, the man told his friends in great detail about his difficulty.

Several of these friends said to him, "You should take this to court to have it settled. But you cannot take it there by yourself. There is a very good attorney at such and such a place. Go to see that attorney and tell him about your problem. He will probably be able to think of a solution for your problem."

Following the advice of these friends, the man went to that attorney. He explained to the attorney what had happened and why he was in conflict with his neighbor.

The attorney listened carefully. Taking his time, the attorney thought about what he had heard for several minutes. Then he said, "It is my opinion that you will either win this case or lose it."

Delighted with this remark, the man exclaimed, "My friends were not just guessing when they told me that you were an excellent lawyer!"