

## Identifying Traits of Effective Counsel

You've just been arrested and charged with a serious federal crime, like smuggling art across the border. You don't have the money to hire a lawyer. Tomorrow, you meet the court-appointed attorney who will help decide whether you walk free or spend years in prison. You get 10 minutes with them before your next hearing. What questions do you ask? What do you need from them? And how will you know if they're doing their job?

1. Would you trust someone you just met with your future? Explain your reasoning.
2. What does it mean to have a "good lawyer"? What skills should they have?
3. What should happen to your case if your lawyer barely talks to you, or misses important facts?