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Describe the ideal skill set for an attorney.

Most importantly, an attorney must have a good understanding of the law in his or her practice area. But almost as importantly, an attorney must be responsive to his or her client's needs. This not only includes promptly returning phone calls and emails, but also actively listening to the client to determine his or her specific goals for the representation. An attorney must be a good communicator on at least two levels. First, whether it is a contract or a legal brief, an attorney must have the ability to write simply and clearly. And second, every attorney works with different kinds of people every day; he or she must have the interpersonal skills to build and foster good working relationships. Finally, while an attorney must be a zealous advocate for his or her client, these qualities must be accompanied by good judgment, ethical standards, credibility and civility.
