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Never Settle for Less Finding Your Dream Job in a Volatile Economy

by [Susan Bryant](#)

Summary

- Tell-tale signs you may be settling
- A snapshot of your dream job.

How realistic is it to hold out for your dream job in today's economy? Is settling for less in your career just a necessary evil right now?

"Keep the dream alive," implores Joel Garfinkle of [Dream Job Coaching](#), a San Leandro, California-based consulting firm specializing in personal and professional fulfillment. Despite our current economy's challenges, Garfinkle still coaches his clients to seek a position that provides career satisfaction beyond salary and security. This can be a difficult concept to embrace when many of us are just looking for a job to pay the bills.

Indeed, Garfinkle is finding many of his clients lowering their expectations of what a new position can offer or tolerating jobs that provide little reward beyond a steady paycheck. How can you tell when the fear of losing your job has made you settle for a position long enough?

- You won't take the risk of asking for a deserved raise or promotion.
- You allow your coworkers or boss to take advantage of you or treat you unfairly.
- You play it safe by not expressing dissenting professional opinions.
- You participate in schmoozing or office politics to secure your employment.
- You become more cutthroat in the workplace and feel like you must compete with coworkers rather than cooperate with them.
- You've accepted that you hate going to work.

