



Neglecting the legal health of a new or existing small business can seriously threaten the success of its operations, endanger its future, and may impact your livelihood.

Public Counsel provides the following legal services:

ADVANCING THE LEGAL WELL-BEING OF YOUR SMALL BUSINESS



Protecting Your Personal Assets & Forming a Corporation or LLC: Are you operating your business as a sole proprietor or partnership? Do you have a written partnership agreement that details each partner's contributions, management responsibilities, split of profits, etc.? Have you thought about running your business as a corporation or LLC?

Employees & Independent Contractors: Does your small business have or plan to hire employees or independent contractors? Do you know how to properly classify salaried (exempt) vs. hourly employees (non-exempt), or employees (W-2) vs. independent contractors (1099)? Do you know the rules regarding meal and rest breaks, overtime, and questions you can ask in interviews?

Contracts & Leases: Is your small business going to enter into a lease, service, licensing or other type of agreement or MOU? Do you need help understanding or negotiating the terms of a contract? Does your standard contract make sure your customers are obligated to pay if you perform services in advance?

Loans & Investments: Do you know the agreement terms to which you should pay special attention if applying for a line of credit or loan? Have you been approached regarding a potential investment, merger, or acquisition? Are you considering selling ownership shares to friends, family members, or outside investors?

Patents, Trademarks & Copyrights: Does your business rely on original technology or information that you or your employees have designed, or a distinguishing name, logo, or product? Do you want to make sure you are protecting your rights to use this intellectual property? Are you sure you are not violating other people's intellectual property?

The **Community Development Project** ("CDP") provides **free legal assistance** to qualifying small businesses and low-income entrepreneurs located in, and employing residents of, underserved communities in Los Angeles County.

Contact Us:

For further information regarding our services and application, please call us at (213) 385-2977, ext. 200 or visit us at:

www.publiccounsel.org/practice_areas/community_development

Additional Resources:

Trainings: Visit our website to see upcoming training courses we are offering for small businesses.

Publications: We also offer informational publications on a wide range of legal issues faced by small businesses. These informational sheets can be found on our website.