



Wayne State University Law School Business and Community Law Clinic

Information about Legal Services

If your organization needs free transactional legal assistance and is a community-based business, or is a nonprofit, for-profit or both that uses entrepreneurial and/or equitable solutions to solve social and environmental problems, let the Business and Community Law Clinic (BCLC) at Wayne State University Law School help you. Under the supervision of experienced and licensed faculty, our upper-level law student attorneys bring their bright minds, fresh approach, enthusiasm and dedication to address your organization's legal needs.

Services: The BCLC assists qualifying organizations in the following areas:

- **Incorporation.** Structure (or restructure) your organization for impact as a limited liability company, corporation, benefit corporation, low-profit limited liability company, or a combination of these options. We also help you create a legal framework for allocating your profits, ownership and decision-making power.
- **Corporate Governance and Impact Evaluation.** Govern your organization with purpose using committee charters, board and employee codes of conduct and codes of ethics, and corporate governance guidelines. We can also assist your organization obtain B Corp certification and develop board self-assessment tools and metrics.
- **Funding and Financing.** Whether your organization uses donations and grants, sales or non-operating revenues, private or public investment, debt, or all of the above, we can help. We can help you understand, negotiate and enter into loan and note agreements, guaranties, equity agreements, and grant agreements. We can also advise you on revenue generation models to minimize your organization's risk, regulatory and tax exposure.
- **Government licenses and permits.** We can help you determine whether your organization needs permission from the government to do its work, and guide you through the process of obtaining necessary licenses and permits.
- **Transitions.** If you want to scale your organization's reach by combining efforts with like-minded organizations, we can help you negotiate a memorandum of understanding, merger, acquisition, joint venture, or fiscal sponsor agreement. If you're ready to tackle the next challenge, we can help you get the next round of funding or financing, or pivot or exit with a sale or divestiture.
- **Contracts.** We draft and review the documents you need to operate your organization, including contracts, license agreements and leases with organizations or individuals who buy – or from whom you buy – goods, services, facilities, intellectual property and other privileges. We can also help you manage your risks when interacting with others through liability waivers and indemnification agreements. If your organization is online, we can help you develop terms of service, privacy policies, and social media policies.
- **Intellectual Property.** Protect your organization's valuable intangible assets with license agreements, and non-disclosure, confidentiality, non-compete and non-solicitation agreements.
- **Employment and compensation.** Hire and retain talent with employment and independent contractor agreements and compensation guidelines that support your organization's goals.

To Apply: Visit our application at law.wayne.edu/clinics/business or call (313) 577-4015 to request a hard copy. The BCLC assists a limited number of clients during the academic year, and typically conducts client intake in July and October for the next semester. The BCLC accepts applications at any time, but due to the high demand for legal services and cyclical nature of the BCLC, we regret that most inquiries for immediate legal assistance cannot be met.

Leadership: Anne Marie Choike is Director of the Business and Community Law Clinic and Assistant Professor (Clinical) at Wayne State University Law School. She is licensed to practice law in Michigan and New York, and directly supervises all student work in the clinic. Prior to entering academia, Professor Choike practiced corporate law with leading law firms in New York City. She earned her law degree and Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and her B.A. from Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Choike lives in the City of Detroit's West Village.