

When Should I Call My Business Lawyer? (1/2)

Entity Formation, Structuring, or Restructuring

When you decide to form a new business entity or change the legal or tax structure of your business (e.g., LLC, corporation, partnership)

Choose the best entity type based on liability, taxation, and management considerations. This is especially true when bringing in a new business partner, entering into a joint venture-like relationship with another business, or offering equity or other equity-based compensation to an employee or key person

Drafting or Reviewing Contracts

Any time you need to draft, review, amend, or negotiate contracts with clients, suppliers, or partners

Ensure the terms are clear and enforceable to protect your interests. Lead with a nondisclosure agreement for all key customers, suppliers, and partners (except government entities)

Intellectual Property Protection

When you are developing or need to protect your intellectual property, such as by filing trademarks, copyrights, or patents

Use a nondisclosure agreement with non-circumvention and non-disturbance provisions, together with an intellectual property assignment provision or agreement. These nondisclosure and assignment agreements should be in place with employees and contractors who are preparing any type of work product for you.

Regulatory Compliance

To stay compliant with industry-specific regulations, health and safety standards, environmental laws, entity and service provider licenses, and other governmental requirements

These can apply to the business, to its owners, employees, and contractors, and to the real estate upon which you operate your business and will help you avoid penalties and operational disruptions

Outside Investment or Raising Capital

If you plan to invest in another business venture or raise capital through investors, loans, or crowdfunding

To ensure compliance with state and federal securities laws, review or draft investment agreements, and engage with financial regulations and regulators.

Employment Law Compliance

For issues related to hiring, terminating, managing, and compensating employees

This includes drafting employment agreements, severance agreements, employment compensation plans, equity-derived compensation agreements, and employee handbooks to ensure compliance with state and federal labor laws



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