

Corporate & Business Legal Guide

Essential Resources for Entrepreneurs, Startups, and Small Businesses

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Launching and running a business requires careful legal planning. This guide combines key resources for startups, healthcare professionals, and small businesses to help structure operations, protect assets, and position ventures for long-term success. For tailored advice, consult qualified legal counsel.

Business Formation Checklist

- Choose a business structure (LLC, Corporation, Partnership, etc.).
- Select and register your business name.
- Prepare and file Articles of Incorporation/Organization.
- Draft an Operating Agreement or Shareholder Agreement.
- Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS.
- Register with state and local tax authorities.
- Apply for necessary business licenses and permits.
- Open a business bank account and establish corporate records.

Startup Legal Roadmap

- Protect intellectual property through trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.
- Draft initial contracts: employment agreements, NDAs, vendor agreements.
- Ensure compliance with employment and labor laws.
- Develop a strategy for investors, fundraising, and exit planning.

Top Contract Clauses Every Business Owner Should Know

- Indemnity allocates risk between parties.
- Termination sets out when and how a contract can end.
- Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure protects sensitive business information.
- Non-Compete/Non-Solicit restricts certain activities post-relationship.
- Dispute Resolution determines how conflicts will be resolved.

Checklist for Buying or Selling a Business

- Conduct due diligence: financial, legal, and operational reviews.
- Draft a clear letter of intent (LOI).

- Negotiate asset vs. stock purchase considerations.
- Prepare closing documents, including purchase agreements and transfer filings.
- Address post-closing obligations, warranties, and covenants.

This guide is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, tax, or financial advice. It does not create an attorney-client relationship with Shkoukani LLP. Each business has unique needs, and you should consult qualified legal and tax professionals regarding your specific circumstances before making decisions.

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