

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

BUSINESS LAW TRANSACTIONS CLINIC

Request for Legal Assistance

Our Services

The Business Law Transactions Clinic of the New York University School of Law (the “Clinic”) provides free transactional legal services to non-profit organizations and certain for-profit businesses. We focus on providing practical support to assist our clients with corporate and business issues. Our students (all third year students at New York University School of Law) are selected from a pool of applicants and work under the close supervision of the Clinic’s experienced faculty on a variety of transactional matters, including:

- planning transactions, negotiating contracts, memoranda of understanding, and other operating agreements (ex: service, independent contractor, fiscal sponsorship) and preparing other project documents;
- performing targeted legal reviews and advising senior managers and boards about governance, compliance and reporting practices;
- preparing bylaws, conflict-of-interest and other board policies, committee charters, director orientation materials, board calendars, board self-assessment tools and similar documents; and
- preparing template and tool documents (ex: contracts, forms, summaries and checklists) for management use.

Our Clients

We provide transactional legal services to not-for-profit organizations, as well as to small businesses, entrepreneurs and social enterprises that may not have access to the traditional legal market and that operate in areas of concern to the public. We work primarily with existing organizations on projects governed by the law of New York State, the corporate laws of the State of Delaware and the United States.

How to Apply for Legal Assistance

We will review your completed application to determine whether your organization has a legal matter that we can address and whether your organization meets the Clinic’s eligibility requirements. We ask that you submit all of the materials supporting your application as soon as possible so that we can avoid unnecessary delay in processing your request. Following receipt of a completed application, we will invite you to an introductory meeting to discuss your organization’s application and legal needs in greater detail. If you and the Clinic agree to move forward, we will provide you with an engagement letter that specifies the scope of services to be provided and the other details of our relationship.

The Clinic primarily works with clients during New York University’s academic year (September – December and January – May). Although we review and accept applications on an ongoing basis, the Clinic aims to start new projects at the beginning of each semester. Once the Clinic has accepted your project, students or Clinic faculty will be available throughout the year.

What Does it Cost?

There will be no charge for legal services provided by the Clinic. However, your organization will be responsible for any filing fees or other expenses incurred in our representation and approved by you in advance.

Request for Legal Assistance Form Instructions

The following guidelines will assist you in completing the attached application:

1. Answer all the questions, providing as much detail as possible, and attach additional sheets if necessary to complete the questions thoroughly. The more we know about a prospective client, the easier it will be for us to review its application and assess its legal needs.
2. Enclose the documents requested on page 4.
3. Include brochures and other materials that show the mission, activities, staff, and other special features of your organization.
4. Include documents related to the current legal need (i.e. copies of contracts, personnel policies, audits), if such information is available.
5. E-mail your application to:

naveen.thomas@nyu.edu or daniella.polar@nyu.edu

Or mail your application to:

Naveen Thomas or Daniella Polar
Business Law Transactions Clinic
New York University School of Law
Furman Hall, Room 526
245 Sullivan Street
New York, NY 10012
(212) 992-7314

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Abramson (stephanie.abramson@nyu.edu), Sean Delany (sean.delany@nyu.edu), Naveen Thomas (naveen.thomas@nyu.edu), or Daniella Polar (daniella.polar@nyu.edu). You can also contact Naveen or Daniella at (212) 992-7314 or (212) 998-6375.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

BUSINESS LAW TRANSACTIONS CLINIC

Request for Legal Assistance Form

1. Name of Organization _____
Address _____

Phone Number () _____

Fax Number () _____

Website _____

2. Name of Primary Contact Person _____

Position in/Relationship to Organization _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Work Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

Email Address _____

Are there any other key contacts at your organization? If so, please include their names and positions here: _____

3. Describe as specifically as possible the legal matter for which your organization seeks assistance.* If you have documents such as project proposals and budgets, legal papers, contracts, or letters relevant to your legal matter, include copies of them. _____

**Please note that the Clinic provides only non-litigation legal services.*

4. Are you currently a student at New York University? ___YES ___NO

If you answered "yes," is your business related to your studies at NYU? ___YES ___NO

If you answered "yes," please (1) state in what school or area you are studying at NYU and (2) describe how your role in your business supports your educational goals:

5. Please list the purpose and/or mission of the organization.

6. Please list your organization's activities and programs or attach written brochures or other materials containing that information.

7. How long has the organization existed? _____

Is the organization incorporated? YES NO

Is the organization a for-profit entity? YES NO

If the organization is a for-profit entity, please complete the Social Enterprise Addendum attached as Annex A.

Is the organization a not-for-profit entity? YES NO

If your organization is a not-for-profit entity, does it have tax-exempt status? YES NO

If you answered "No," is your organization fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)? YES NO

8. Is your organization currently operating? YES NO

If you answered "No," when do you anticipate being operational? _____

Please describe any steps you have taken in setting up your business or organization (ex: formed an entity, obtained a tax identification number, adopted by-laws or an operating agreement, filed any documents with the state, signed any agreements, etc.).

9. How many members does the organization's board of directors have? _____

How many employees does the organization have? _____

10. How many people does the organization serve each year, if applicable? _____

What geographic region does the organization currently serve? _____

11. What were the revenues of the organization in its most recent fiscal year? _____

Please list the categories and aggregate amounts of the organization's five largest revenue categories:

12. If your organization is a for-profit entity, how is it financed? Does your organization have any business partners or investors in your business?

13. Are there any affiliates of your organization involved in this matter? If so, please list them below.

14. Does your organization have any other affiliates that are not involved in this matter? If so, please list them below.

15. Please identify any other party/parties involved in this matter and explain their role.

16. If the organization has a need for ongoing legal advice, please list those issues for which it needs advice.

17. Has a lawyer worked with the organization on a prior matter other than the problem described in question 3 above?

___ YES ___ NO

If so, what is that lawyer's name and affiliation? _____

What work has been done?

Is that lawyer still representing the organization in this matter?

___ YES ___ NO

If your answer was "No," why is she/he no longer representing the organization?

18. Has a lawyer worked with the organization on the matter described in question 3 above?

___ YES ___ NO

If so, what is that lawyer's name and affiliation? _____

What work has been done?

Why is she/he no longer representing the organization in this matter?

19. What is the timing of your project? Please list any key deadlines.

20. How did you hear about the Clinic's legal services?

Name of referring source: _____

NOTE: Please be sure that you have included all of the following. We will process your application when we receive all of the required information:

- ___ Program outline, brochures and/or other descriptive materials
- ___ Certificate of incorporation and amendments
- ___ By-Laws
- ___ IRS filing for the most recent fiscal year
- ___ IRS Confirmation of tax exempt status (i.e., determination letter), if applicable
- ___ List of officers and directors, and senior staff members
- ___ Annual report or income/expense statement for the most recent fiscal year.

For each affiliate that is involved in your current legal need, please provide:

- ___ Certificate of incorporation and amendments
- ___ By-Laws
- ___ IRS filing for the most recent fiscal year
- ___ IRS Confirmation of tax-exempt status (i.e., determination letter), if applicable
- ___ Lists of officers and directors, and senior staff members

We look forward to hearing from your organization and hope that we can be of assistance.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Title _____ Date _____

Annex A

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ADDENDUM

(to be completed by for-profit applicants only)

Pursuant to the mission of Washington Square Legal Services, Inc., the Clinic may represent for-profit businesses only “where the interests of the public may be protected or furthered.” In furtherance of this mission, for-profit clients that may qualify for representation include:

- Social enterprises whose mission involves positive social change, such as combating poverty and hunger, promoting public health and safety or improving the environment.
- Businesses that foster the economic development of low-income or economically-distressed communities.

Your responses to the questions below will help us determine if your for-profit business qualifies for assistance from the Clinic.

1. Does your business have a social mission? YES NO

If **yes**, please describe your business’s social mission and the means through which your business will pursue this mission.

Useful details to include in this response include, but are not limited to: (1) how your business serves the public interest; (2) evidence of your business’s social mission in its constitutive documents; (3) whether your business is a public benefit corporation or other statutorily recognized social enterprise; and (4) third-party certifications of social mission (i.e., B Lab).
