

CHOOSING THE RIGHT LAWYER



The early involvement of legal counsel experienced in working with startups and early stage companies will ensure that all significant legal issues are addressed, mitigate liability for the company and its founders, and increase the success rate of the business. Timely counsel and guidance from a lawyer will not only help entrepreneurs and founding teams make the appropriate decisions around legal risk management, but also educate them on how those decisions impact events in the future.



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Relying on experienced legal counsel, who have spent years handling corporate, finance, intellectual property, and labor and employment matters across multiple companies, can be an extremely efficient resource for entrepreneurs already juggling a seemingly endless list of other tasks. Experienced legal counsel can help entrepreneurs avoid costly mistakes and wasting time on tasks that are more legal in nature and relatively simple to the trained lawyer.

The most effective startup and early stage company lawyers not only handle the legal risk management side of the business, but also serve as a tremendous resource connecting entrepreneurs with mentors, advisors, potential customers, and potential partners. Lawyers that regularly work within the entrepreneurial community have also created, developed or have access to funding networks and can provide direct introductions for promising startups or early stage companies.

All entrepreneurs, startups, and early stage companies should commit the time and resources to finding the right lawyer, an advisor that understands the specific needs of startups and early stage businesses and that will actively engage in the business outside of the basic task-billing relationship. The right lawyer can be a substantial asset to an entrepreneur or founding team and will inevitably save the company time and money in the long run.

Take the time to interview different lawyers and ask questions about what matters they regularly handle and their areas of expertise. Look at the clients the lawyer represents and ask questions about their experience handling corporate, finance, intellectual property, and labor and employment matters. The more experience a lawyer has, the more efficient he or she will be handling the needs of your startup or entrepreneurial endeavor.