

ENTREPRENEURIAL LAW PROJECT

MISSION

Our mission is to improve access and provide legal support for entrepreneurs while educating and empowering the next generation of Arkansas attorneys. To ensure we can serve our community effectively and fairly, we've established clear service-offering processes and policies. These guidelines help us maintain consistency, uphold professional standards, and focus on providing the best possible support to those we serve.

SERVICES

We provide three main services to support Arkansas entrepreneurs:

Entrepreneurial Law Checkup

This service offers brief, 30-minute consultations with pro bono business law attorneys. Entrepreneurs can ask specific legal questions, review documents, and gain guidance on self-completing legal forms. The sessions are hosted:

- Bi-weekly in Fayetteville (sessions available in-person locations and online via Microsoft Teams).
- Through a statewide roadshow visiting locations like Mena, Morrilton, and Little Rock, among others.

Registration is required to reserve a spot, as availability is limited. These checkups aim to make legal advice accessible while involving law students and volunteer attorneys in providing support.

Ongoing Legal Project Support

When capacity allows, we match Arkansas entrepreneurs with pro bono attorneys for specific legal projects in areas. **Entrepreneurs must first attend an Entrepreneurial Law Checkup to be considered for longer-term legal project support.**

Please note: There is no guarantee that every entrepreneur will be matched with an attorney as slots for legal project support are very limited. Priority is given to entrepreneurs with limited means and high legal need. Matches depend on volunteer attorney availability and willingness to take on a pro bono project.



Forms & Video Lessons

During Spring and Summer 2025, we are developing self-service legal forms and educational resources on entrepreneurial law topics such as intellectual property, funding, and business entity selection. In Fall of 2025, Entrepreneurs will be able to access: (1) a growing library of legal forms, (2) recorded and live webinars that demonstrate form completion, and (3) educational videos that address key legal topics.

POLICIES

Our Focus: Transactional Legal Support for Entrepreneurs

We are here to help entrepreneurs and small business owners with legal issues that support the growth and operation of their businesses. While we strive to assist wherever possible, please note that our capacity is limited, and we prioritize cases based on need, urgency and potential impact. Our program focuses on transactional legal matters, which include:

- Guidance on choosing and forming business entities (e.g., LLCs, corporations).
- Reviewing and drafting basic contracts.
- Guidance on protecting intellectual property (e.g., trademarks, copyrights).
- Guidance on employment law considerations and best practices
- Identifying key legal issues in other non-litigation business matters, such as:
- Navigating business licenses and permits
- Understanding basic fundraising and securities law concepts
- Spotting potential tax and regulatory compliance issues

What We Don't Handle:

We are unable to assist with litigation or disputes that involve going to court. This includes matters like lawsuits, contract disputes, or collections.

Please note that while we aim to provide helpful guidance, our support should not be considered a substitute for permanent formal legal representation. For complex, high-stakes, or ongoing legal needs, we recommend seeking dedicated counsel.

If you have questions about whether your legal issue fits within our scope, please reach out to us. We're happy to discuss your situation and help refer you to other resources if necessary.



Our Focus: Legal Support for Arkansas Entrepreneurs

Our program is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and small business owners within the state of Arkansas. This means:

- We can only assist with legal matters that are based in Arkansas or involve Arkansas laws.
- If your business operates in another state or your legal issue involves laws outside of Arkansas, we encourage you to seek resources specific to that location.

Our goal is to provide the best possible support for Arkansas businesses. If your needs fall outside our scope, we're happy to help connect you with other resources or organizations that may be able to assist.

Pre-Existing Attorney-Client Relationships

Our program is designed to assist entrepreneurs and small business owners who do not already have legal representation for their businesses. If you have an existing attorney-client relationship for your business, we cannot provide *pro bono project* support unless your attorney provides express written consent for us to assist with specific matters.

This policy ensures we respect the work and advice of your current attorney while avoiding potential conflicts. If you're unsure whether this applies to you, feel free to reach out to discuss your situation.

Three Checkup Limit

Due to high demand and limited resources, each individual is eligible for up to three check-up consultations per year. After three consultations, any additional requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with priority given to those who haven't reached their limit. This policy helps ensure fair access to legal support for all entrepreneurs.

GETTING STARTED

To get started with the Entrepreneurial Law Project:

1. Review our services and policies to understand how we can assist you.
2. Register for an upcoming Entrepreneurial Law Checkup on our website: <https://entrepreneurship.uark.edu/programs/entrepreneurial-law-project.php>.
3. Attend your scheduled consultation with an attorney.
4. If your legal needs match our ongoing project support, we will discuss next steps. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at lawproj@uark.edu. We look forward to supporting your entrepreneurial journey!

