



For more information about eligibility and application criteria for Thomas Jefferson School of Law students, please visit

**TJSL.EDU**

# SMALL BUSINESS LAW CENTER

THE STRENGTH TO START YOUR BUSINESS

## ABOUT

The Small Business Law Center (SBLC) at Thomas Jefferson School of Law provides legal assistance to entrepreneurs, artists, small businesses, inventors and nonprofit organizations who might not otherwise have the financial means to hire a lawyer.

Under the supervision of California-licensed attorneys, our law students assist clients like you with legal needs that do not involve going to court, such as contract drafting, business entity formation and applications to register copyrights, trademarks and patents. Our students take

the lead in providing services focused on your business, working closely with you each step of the way. Whether your business is just starting out or has been up and running for years, we are here to help.

Components of the SBLC include the Art and Entertainment Law Project, the Community Economic Development Clinic, the Patent Clinic and the Trademark Clinic.

## SERVICES

The SBLC provides free legal assistance in the following areas:

- **General Business Advice**
- **Business Formation**
- **Contract Review and Negotiation**
- **Commercial Leasing**
- **Nonprofit Tax Exemption**
- **Independent Contractor and Employment Issues**
- **Permitting and Licensing**
- **Copyright**
- **Trademark**
- **Patent**
- **Publicity Rights**
- **Trade Secrets**

Our law students also make community presentations to organizations such as chambers of commerce, small business associations and community groups. For example, the SBLC has presented to the San Diego Foundation, East Village Association, National City Chamber of Commerce, the Hive, Enactus (San Diego City College), the Design Institute of San Diego, Platt College, Extended Hand Worldwide Industries and Canemax. To schedule a presentation for your group or association, please contact the SBLC.

## ELIGIBILITY

The SBLC's target client base includes small businesses, entrepreneurs, artists, inventors and nonprofits that do not have the resources to hire a private attorney. Each case is evaluated individually, but preference is given to:

- **Low household income as recognized by the federal government;**
- **Businesses with gross income under \$100,000;**
- **Nonprofits with operating budgets of \$150,000 or less; and**
- **Entities or individuals who are located in areas with high poverty populations in San Diego County.**

To determine a prospective client's financial eligibility, the SBLC will request supporting financial documents. Those documents may include tax returns, pay stubs, bank statements, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and a signed declaration of income and expense.

## PROGRAMS

### ART & ENTERTAINMENT LAW PROJECT

The Art & Entertainment Law Project provides free legal services for low-income artists, actors, dancers, writers, musicians, filmmakers and related nonprofit organizations. Our support of the arts fosters creativity and expression as a means of enabling individual and cultural identity across the many communities we serve.

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

The Community Economic Development (CED) Clinic provides legal assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations and small businesses that stimulate economic growth in communities of need. In addition to individual representation, the CED Clinic conducts legal information seminars at local chambers of commerce, trade organizations and social services providers that promote community economic development.

### PATENT CLINIC

The Patent Clinic is an official part of the Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program administered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Patent Clinic is a component of the SBLC that specifically provides legal assistance to individuals and organizations seeking patent protection for inventions.

### TRADEMARK CLINIC

The Trademark Clinic is also an official part of the Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program administered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Trademark Clinic helps individuals, organizations and businesses apply for federal registration of their trademarks and service marks.

