

# **ANNOUNCING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME ENTREPRENEURS**

The **University of San Diego School of Law** is proud to announce the opening of its **Entrepreneurship Clinic**, which will provide free (“*pro bono*”) legal services to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding their small businesses.

## ***What Kind of Assistance Does the Entrepreneurship Clinic Provide?***

The Entrepreneurship Clinic is designed to assist entrepreneurs who cannot otherwise afford a lawyer in the following ways: obtaining business permits and licenses; navigating the numerous rules and regulations that apply at the local and state levels; negotiating contracts; determining the appropriate form of business entity (e.g., sole proprietorship, corporation, etc.); trademark and copyright research and registration; and advice on other legal issues involving the small business.

## ***How Does the Entrepreneurship Clinic Operate?***

USD law students, under the supervision of the Clinic Director, will assist small businesses in a non-litigation (i.e., no lawsuits) setting. These services will be free to the client, although clients must pay for any fees/costs required by law. For example, if the Clinic assists the client in filing incorporation papers, the client will pay the filing fee required by the State but not for the legal services, photocopies, telephone calls, or faxes provided by the student. In many instances, there will be no fees.

## ***Who Qualifies?***

Because its services are free, the Entrepreneurship Clinic will focus its efforts on assisting those who cannot otherwise afford a lawyer. In addition to income criteria, the Clinic also considers how complex or simple the client’s legal needs are, the client’s dedication to the business, and the likelihood that the business will succeed.

**For More Information: Contact Prof. Donna G. Matias,  
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