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Time For Your (legal) Checkup

In a perfect world, your business would have unlimited access to legal counsel from the beginning. Understandably, most small and growing businesses do not prioritize and receive the legal support they need until there are problems or an event requiring a lawyer has materialized. As a result, many businesses miss the opportunity to avoid legal exposure, additional expenses and headaches, and end up dealing with major problems that could have been sidestepped with proper legal assistance at the outset. More importantly, neglecting your company's legal needs can also negatively affect the value of your business when it is time to exit, cause costly delays, or, in some cases, kill a deal altogether.

In an effort to help clients understand their legal health, I am offering a comprehensive "checkup." This would include interviews with key personnel, review of appropriate documentation and the delivery of a report with findings and recommendations about how we might work together to make improvements.

Listed below are some of the areas which often need attention:

- ✓ Corporate records, filings and registrations – are your entity and ownership documents complete, organized and current?
- ✓ Relationships among the business owners – is this clearly documented and understood?
- ✓ Employment matters – are your employees and contractors categorized properly, treated properly and have they signed typical invention assignment, confidentiality and non-compete agreements?
- ✓ Contracts used by the business – have they been reviewed? Do they maximize the growth potential for the company and sufficiently protect the company?
- ✓ Intellectual Property created or owned by the business – is there protectable intellectual property and, if so, is it protected?
- ✓ Insurance and risk management – does the business have adequate insurance and policies in place to mitigate risk?
- ✓ Regulatory compliance – is the business compliant with regulatory requirements?

Having worked in large law firms for 9 years, as General Counsel for three different companies and as a co-founder of a start-up, I have a deep understanding of the business legal landscape and have developed a practical, business-minded approach to advising clients. What I have seen time and time again is that taking a proactive approach to legal compliance pays huge dividends down the road and helps businesses and their owners avoid costly, time consuming and sometimes fatal errors. Making sure your legal house is in order is also a necessity if you plan to sell your business and playing catch up in the middle of a due diligence effort will, at a minimum cost you time and money and, in some cases, spoil the deal. Please contact me at the number or email listed above for more information or to schedule a meeting.