

Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic

PENN STATE LAW

123 S Burrowes Street
State College, PA 16801

ABOUT THE CLINIC

The Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic (the “EAC”) offers **pro bono legal services** to startup companies and entrepreneurs across the Commonwealth. Our mission is to be a full-service legal team to assist young businesses from organization and formation to early-stage investment rounds and other contractual work as needed. All work is performed by Penn State Law students under the supervision of three licensed attorneys. While there is not a strict income limit, we exist to assist clients who do not have access to legal counsel. No Penn State affiliation is required, but clients must have their business based in Pennsylvania.

In 2022, **we served just over 1,200 new clients**. Our newest initiative, the Underserved Small Business (USB) Legal Services Program, targets minority entrepreneurs who are generally categorized as “socially and economically disadvantaged” for purposes of government contracting programs as well as by private companies that have announced their own USB programs. These qualifying entrepreneurs include people of color, women, rural residents, veterans, and members of the LGBTQ community.

The EAC functions similarly to a small law firm, providing law students with practical experience. Students work directly with clients on diverse business-related projects under the supervision of licensed lawyers. Students are assigned new clients at weekly round-table meetings and discuss their client’s legal issues with the attorneys. Other than brief hiatuses for student exams, **the EAC operates year-round** with roughly 20 student interns each semester and 5-10 students over the summer.

LEGAL SERVICES

EAC services include choice-of-entity and formation assistance as well as contract drafting and review. Contracts tend to fall into one of two categories: *organizational* and *operational*.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Organizational contract assistance includes legal documents required to formally start a business and any ancillary agreements, such as operating agreements, corporate bylaws, agreements between founders, issuance of equity, partnership agreements, etc.

OPERATIONAL

Operational contracts are documents necessary to keep a business operating; examples include employment and independent contractor agreements, service agreements, manufacturing and distribution agreements, commercial leases, etc.

The EAC will not be involved in dispute resolution, whether through litigation or otherwise, nor any tax, immigration, insurance, intellectual property, or other regulatory matters. For example, the EAC cannot advise on any zoning, permitting, or licensing matters.

Clients can sign up for services using our online intake form found [here](#)