ENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE CLINIC—FALL 2019

Penn State Law created the Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic (the "Eship Legal Clinic") in 2016 as part of the University-wide *Invent Penn State* initiative. The Eship Legal Clinic has two purposes: providing pro bono legal services to startup and early-stage businesses and giving students at Penn State Law the opportunity for practical experience while working under the supervision of a licensed lawyer. The Eship Legal Clinic exposes its students to the actual practice of law, in the same manner as in a small law firm. In a typical representation, a student has a one-on-one meeting with a client, develops and then reviews with a supervising attorney an action plan for the client's needs and then implements the plan under the direction of a supervising attorney. With most completed engagements, a student at the clinic will have been the only member of the clinic who has met the client.

A student's work at the Eship Legal Clinic usually consists of meetings with clients, drafting documents based on precedent forms, and discussing action plans with the supervising attorneys and other students. On rare occasions, a student may prepare a short research memorandum.

The Eship Legal Clinic provides services to entrepreneurs on a wide range of legal topics. These include entity formation (typically a limited liability company or corporation), owner agreements, equity-incentive agreements and advice regarding operational agreements, such as leases, manufacturing contracts and website terms of use. The clinic receives requests for assistance from referral sources across Pennsylvania, which include the 20 LaunchBoxes and other Innovation Hubs at Penn State's Commonwealth Campuses, the 18 Small Business Development Centers, and Ben Franklin Technology Partners.

In order to be close to clients, the Eship Legal Clinic is based in downtown State College at the Happy Valley LaunchBox, a startup incubator/co-working space that is part of the Invent Penn State program. The clinic holds a weekly "team meeting," usually on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:45, during which each student gives an update on his or her clients. Apart from the team meeting, a student is only required each week to be at the LaunchBox for two hours as part of the clinic's office-hours program for "walk-in" clients. A student may perform work, including meeting with clients, wherever it is convenient, including with laptop-based Zoom videoconferencing.

The Eship Legal Clinic represents a wide range of clients. It is common for a clinic student to be working with a Penn State professor who is trying to commercialize a scientific discovery while at the same time assisting a community member in rural Pennsylvania who is starting restaurant. Our clients have included a student who developed a computerized device that enables people with cerebral palsy to speak, an organic farmer located near the PA-NY border, a combination craft brewery/bed-and-breakfast near Erie and a non-profit group that is trying to attract economic development to a small city in central Pennsylvania.

The Eship Legal Clinic's initial mission was to represent startup clients affiliated with Penn State and located at or in the area surrounding Penn State's largest campus in University Park. As the Invent Penn State initiative gathered momentum and the Innovation Hubs were opened across Pennsylvania, demand for the Eship Legal Clinic's services quickly grew. The clinic responded by assuming an outreach role in Pennsylvania that is consistent with Penn State's mission as a land-grant institution, and it now provides services to startup and early-stage businesses located throughout the Commonwealth, using a combination of videoconferencing technology and in-person meetings.

The Eship Legal Clinic has two licensed attorneys: the director, who is also a professor at the law school, and a staff attorney, who is a recent graduate of the law school.

Despite what it may say in LionPath or elsewhere, there are no prerequisites for the Eship Legal Clinic.