

*This crash course will present necessary legal considerations and some suggested resources to get your business started on the right foot.*

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1. Two Approaches
2. When to hire a lawyer
3. Legal Formation & Entity Types
4. Financial Implications
5. Growth Implications
6. Question & Answer
7. Governance Documents
8. Contracts



# Control vs. Execution

**A secret about lawyers:** You are the expert of your business model

**When to hire a lawyer:** When you feel out of your league

**Purpose of a lawyer:** To advise you on the law

**How to find a good lawyer:** Local lawyers will work for local projects. Consider a lawyer that specializes in your type of business and needs

**Can you just use documents you find online?** Sometimes you can represent yourself. Sometimes it is cheaper and faster and has good benefit in some circumstances. Key word: **SOMETIMES.**

# Legal Entity Types

**Sole Proprietorship**

**Doing Business As (DBA)**

**Partnership**

**Limited Liability Corporation**

**Corporation**

**501 (c) 3**

# Financial/Tax Implications

**Sole Proprietorship:** *Me, Myself, & I*

**Doing Business As (DBA):** *Pseudonym*

**Partnership:** *What's mine is ours*

**Limited Liability Corporation:** *THAT LLC*

**Corporation:** *Separate*

**501 (c) 3:** *Nonprofit*

# Growth Implications

**Sole Proprietorship**  
**Doing Business As (DBA)**  
**Partnership**

**Limited Liability  
Corporation**  
**Corporation**

**501 (c) 3**

# Q&A in Chat

**Where are you in the business formation process?**



# Governance Documents

- Articles of Incorporation
- Founders Agreement
- First Found Financing
- Operating Agreement
- Board of Directors
- Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA)

# Contracts

- Standard Contracts
- Employment Contracts
- Special Purpose Entities

# Resources

- Articles of Incorporation (state of MO): <https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/>
- EIN: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>
- Doing Business As: [https://www.sos.mo.gov/business/corporations/fictitious\\_faq](https://www.sos.mo.gov/business/corporations/fictitious_faq)
- Listings of MO Lawyers: <https://mobar.org/public/LawyerSearch.aspx>
- Example Governance Documents: <https://www.lawdepot.com/contracts/llc-operating-agreement/?loc=US#.XzVUYhNKhjU>
- Mizzou Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic: <https://law.missouri.edu/elc/>

# Cost Benefit Analysis

- Cost

- Time
- \$\$\$\$
- Search process
- Information dump

- Benefit

- Legal expertise
- Business experience
- Back-up

Let's walk through some examples: governance documents, standard contracts, licensing agreements, rental agreements, standard invoice language