



THE  
JOHN MARSHALL  
LAW SCHOOL  
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE  
LAW CLINIC

# FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**for Businesses and  
Tax-Exempt Not-For-Profit  
Organizations**



# Business Enterprise Law Clinic

## What **Legal Challenges** Do You Face?

How do you decide which form of business organization best meets your goals and objectives?

Is there a business relationship you want to establish, but just don't know how to get started?

Have you received a contract that requires an explanation and that you want to negotiate?

Do you have questions about financing the growth of your business, but have no one to ask?

Are you so busy running the day-to-day operations of your business that planning for the future has been put on a back burner?

Are there routine forms and documents that you have been using, not because they meet your needs, but because you found them in a book or on the Internet?

## **BELAW** Can Help

Under the direction of Michael Schlesinger, John Marshall Law School students enrolled in the Business Enterprise Law Clinic (BELAW) provide *pro bono* legal services to the Chicagoland business community. BELAW's mission is to help people from underserved communities and with limited financial resources, as well as tax-exempt not-for-profit organizations, by providing access to quality business and transactional legal representation.

Legal questions arise in many different contexts and come in all shapes, sizes, and levels of complexity. The key to good lawyering is the ability not only to identify problems, but also, after a thorough assessment, come up with solutions. And by solutions, we mean those that meet a client's goals and objectives. Even that is not enough. After consulting with our client and finding a solution, we work with the client to develop strategies and tactics to achieve the desired result.



## Examples of Our **Legal Services**

- The choice of entity for your business, including tax and non-tax consequences
- The structure of the entity, focusing on three areas: ownership, control, and financing
- Planning for the future of a business, including succession planning
- Regulatory compliance, which involves interpreting the law that regulates the operation of your business
- Employment issues, including protection of confidential and proprietary information and contracts with key employees and independent contractors
- The use of form documents and the implications of contractual terms and provisions
- The structure of contractual and other relationships with suppliers and customers
- The review and negotiation of loan documents from banks and other third parties
- Regular, routine business transactions that arise in the day-to-day operation of a business or not-for-profit organization
- Advising tax-exempt not-for-profit organizations seeking to establish for-profit subsidiaries or affiliated entities that can provide additional revenues while complementing and maintaining their tax-exempt status

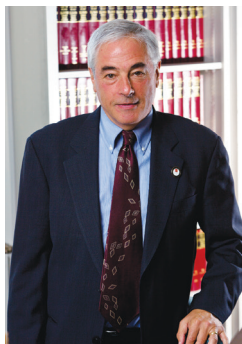
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For more information about **BELAW**,  
please visit [www.jmls.edu/belaw](http://www.jmls.edu/belaw).

# Take the Next Step

## Toward Starting a Relationship with **BELAW** at The John Marshall Law School

**Michael Schlesinger** is Director of the Business Enterprise Law Clinic at The John Marshall Law School. As an adjunct professor, he taught Corporation Law and created and taught Transactional Law and Representing the Business Client. As a practitioner, Schlesinger has more than 30 years of experience



as a member of the Chicago law firm of Robbins, Salomon & Patt, Ltd., where his practice concentrated in the field of transactional law, principally on the organization, capital structure, financing, and ongoing representation of businesses; the acquisition, sale, and merger of business entities; the purchase and sale of commercial and multi-family residential real estate properties; litigation strategy; and estate and business succession planning.

Schlesinger has engaged in a number of public service activities, including more than 10 years as a trustee of Saint Augustine College. He was a member of the board of directors and past president of the Logan Square Boys & Girls Club, Chicago; a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador and Guatemala, and with Global Volunteers in Costa Rica; and a member of the advisory board of the Integrated Healthcare Project at Thresholds, sponsored by the UIC College of Nursing.

Schlesinger earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Dickinson College and his JD from The John Marshall Law School, where he was a member of the law review.

### **Michael Schlesinger**

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