

SMALL AND EMERGING BUSINESSES PRACTICE GROUP

Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP attorneys know that small business owners must be able to focus their limited time, resources, and energy finding and servicing customers. Our commitment to nurturing local small businesses has been demonstrated not only through our representation of literally hundreds of entrepreneurs, but also by our decades of *pro bono* work with business incubator projects, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and neighborhood business organizations.

We bring years of legal experience helping small businesses build a solid foundation for success up front, while taking steps to avoid future problems.

Our business/corporate attorneys work closely with small business owners and their accountants to select appropriate business entity types to enhance profitability and protect personal assets from business liabilities. Our firm handles private securities offerings for businesses seeking additional capital. We also assist with the negotiation and drafting of virtually all types of business contracts and represent our clients before local, state, and national regulatory agencies, in arbitrations and mediations, and at trial as required.

Our real estate attorneys have reviewed, negotiated, and drafted thousands of commercial leases and acquisition and disposition agreements. We have secured rights for clients to occupy stable, appropriate, and well-maintained spaces while allowing for maximum flexibility if circumstances change. We also help to secure required licenses and permits and, when necessary, represent clients in unlawful detainer actions, premises issues, construction defect claims, and lease disputes.

Because the internet draws even single-location businesses into the global marketplace, our firm's intellectual property attorneys help small businesses identify, protect, and enforce ownership rights in proprietary assets such as their businesses, brand and domain names, logos, products, packaging designs, trade secrets, and publicity rights. We are internationally recognized for our expertise in applying IP laws and aggressively pursuing offenders on behalf of diverse businesses and individuals, including retailers, restaurants, manufacturers, distributors, service providers, product designers, and entertainers.

The firm's employment law attorneys help small employers establish personnel policies that conform to complex federal, state, and local laws to minimize employee actions related to compensation, wrongful termination, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), harassment, and discrimination. Our immigration attorneys support the hiring of foreign nationals, assisting owners and employees with immigration and naturalization processes.

In today's unpredictable economy, business owners who become involved in creditor/debtor matters and bankruptcy filings can draw upon the experience of our attorneys in all matters relating to insolvency filings, out-of-court workouts, and litigation.

Because small businesses often represent both a major asset and a potential liability for their owners, our trusts and estate lawyers structure estate plans designed to protect the value and viability of

businesses, shelter personal assets from business operations, and establish appropriate business succession plans. We also represent clients in trust and estate disputes and probate matters.

Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP's small and emerging businesses practice group does not just provide experienced legal representation. It is also a means for the firm to build and maintain long-term relationships with valued clients who enjoy a competitive advantage through their affiliation with a team of dedicated attorneys committed to providing critical guidance when businesses grow or are otherwise presented with new opportunities.