



Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Small Business Development Program

Nadia Segura, Directing Attorney
Small Business Development Project



Bet Tzedek Legal Services: Overview



- Non-Profit Legal Services Agency with over 40 years of history
- Provides free legal services to individuals in Los Angeles County over a wide range of areas
- Services provided regardless of individual's race, religion, ethnicity, or immigration status
- Today we'll talk about our Small Business Development project

Why to support Small Businesses?

- California small businesses are drivers of economic growth – creating two-thirds of new jobs and employing nearly half of all private sector employees. **California is home to 4.1 million small businesses.**
- **After decades of advocating for economic justice, in 2016 Bet Tzedek launched a Small Business Development program to strengthen the economic base of underserved communities** by providing free legal education and services to low-to-moderate income small business owners, with a focus on women, disabled, Veteran, immigrant, and LGBTQ business owners.
- COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on small businesses, impeding the economic viability across sectors. **We are also seeing that business owned by women and people of color – who were already facing unequal access to credit and other historic barriers to institutional services and support – were especially hit hard.**



Small Business Development Project

- Designed to help **low-to-moderate income entrepreneurs** secure free assistance with a wide range of transactional business law matters, through:

Community presentations and workshops

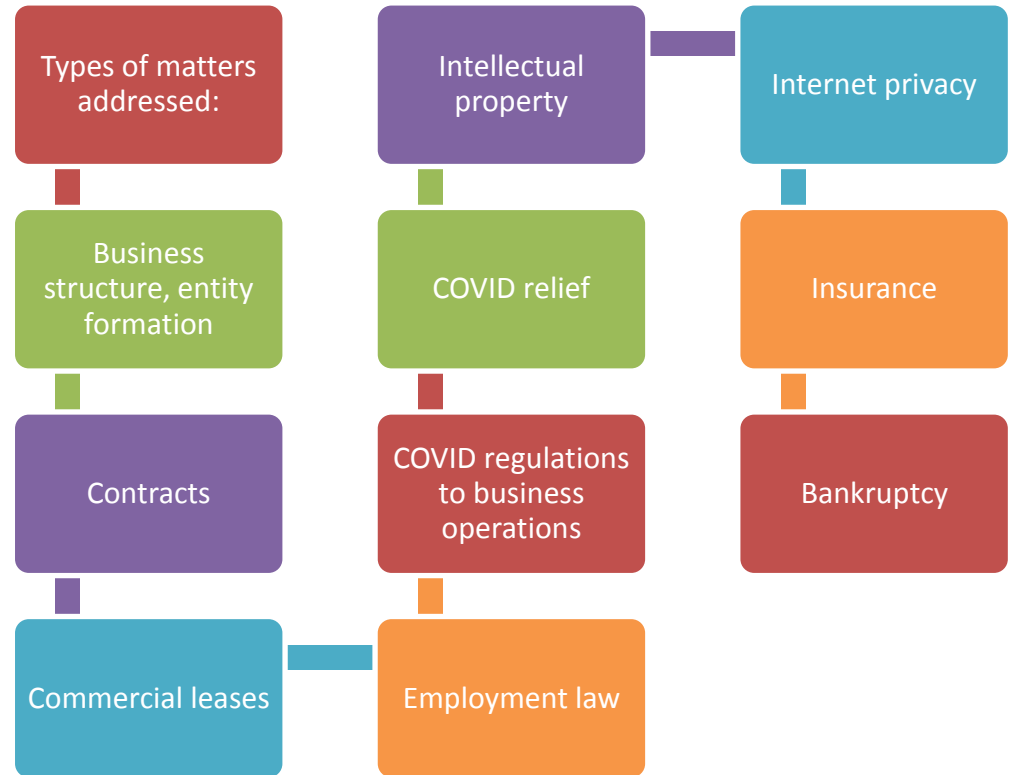
Small Business Legal Academies

Guides and other free resources

Direct client representation

Bet Tzedek Small Business Program

- Bet Tzedek has built an infrastructure and support system for small businesses to apply for and secure effective free legal services on transactional issues such as:



Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility required for free direct representation:
 - Household income eligibility threshold
 - Business profits and sales factored in as well
 - For for-profit businesses in LA County
 - Transactional (not litigation) services



**Note: Services can be provided in different languages through staff or a language line. Accommodations will be provided to clients with disabilities.*

How to Get Help

- Free Resources:

<https://www.bettzedek.org/our-services/resources/>

- Questions:

Nadia Segura: nsegura@bettzedek.org

- Application for Assistance: <https://www.bettzedek.org/smallbusiness>



Introductions



- **Marc Goldsmith**

Partner at The Law Offices of Marc H. Goldsmith