

Through the encouragement of family and friends, a husband and wife team who enjoyed holding backyard barbecues decided to try to sell the sauce that others found so delicious.



A collaborating non-profit organization provided them with business technical assistance, connected them with a company to make and bottle their sauce, and referred them to LSEM for their business legal needs.

A team of volunteer attorneys drafted a confidentiality agreement to protect their valuable sauce recipe, negotiated favorable business terms with the manufacturing company, secured a trademark to protect the name and logo of their business and helped protect them from liability by forming a limited liability company. Their sauce is now sold on supermarket shelves.

An Investment in Our Community

The holistic and comprehensive services that LSEM provides assist client-families to achieve safety and create economic and family stability, which in turn strengthens the community.

Our Tagline reads “Pursuing Justice, Strengthening Lives”, and with your help, we do just that. It is through our pursuit of justice that we continue to strengthen the lives of those we serve, empowering them to reach further and ultimately, live better. A contribution to LSEM is an investment in the region’s infrastructure, which will pay rich dividends in the future.

While our work is focused on solving long-term problems for individuals and families, the impact ripples outward to benefit the entire community.

For information on how to help by making a donation, please call the Development Office at 314-256-8742.

Contact Information

For help, please call:

Main Office
4232 Forest Park Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-534-4200
1-800-444-0514

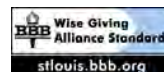
Union Outreach Office
20 South Church St., Ste. C
Union, MO 63084
636-583-7877
1-866-583-7877

Hannibal Branch Office
801 Broadway
Hannibal, MO 63401
573-248-1111
1-800-767-2018



For a listing of the 21 counties served by LSEM, and other information about the services we provide, please visit our website at www.lsem.org. Please also visit the statewide website at www.lsmo.org for additional resources.

The mission of LSEM is to provide high quality civil legal assistance and equal access to justice for low-income people in Eastern Missouri.



Community Economic Development Program



Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

lsem.org



Serving 21 counties in eastern Missouri

Overview

The Community Economic Development (CED) Program is a project of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) that provides free business legal assistance to:

- *Entrepreneurs* who are starting or expanding small businesses that provide a benefit to the communities we serve.
- *Non-profit entities* that promote community development to benefit people who are low-income or low opportunity.

By building the capacity of non-profit organizations and small businesses, the CED Program helps generate jobs, create healthy communities, and provide a long-term solution to alleviate poverty.

Our CED Program matches clients who cannot afford legal assistance with experienced business attorneys from law firms and in-house corporate legal departments at no cost. The CED Program works closely with LSEM's Volunteer Lawyers Program.



Legal Services Available

LSEM's CED Program provides legal services that cover the range of legal matters involved in operating businesses and non-profits. Typical legal matters include

- Forming legal entities,
- Establishing employment policies and procedures,
- Drafting various types of contracts with third parties,
- Seeking a trademark, copyright or patent to protect valuable intellectual property,
- Reviewing commercial leases,
- Complying with zoning restrictions,
- Improving corporate governance practices, and handling tax matters.



In addition to one-on-one legal representation provided by experienced business attorneys, LSEM's CED Program offers:

- *Legal Workshops* that cover various topics entrepreneurs or non-profit managers need to know in starting or growing a business or organization.
- *Legal Clinics* for entrepreneurs or non-profits to meet one-on-one with an experienced business attorney to seek general guidance on legal issues in connection with the formation and/or management of a business or non-profit.

How To Obtain Legal Services

To obtain any of the services listed above, please contact LSEM at (314) 534-4200 x1336. Receiving free legal representation involves the following steps:

After speaking with a CED Program staff member you will be asked to complete an intake interview over the phone to determine whether you meet LSEM's eligibility guidelines to qualify for free legal assistance.

- If eligible, a CED Program staff member will meet with you to discuss your business or organization and the legal services you need. You may be requested to provide additional information about your business or organization at this meeting.
- ↓
- The CED Program will attempt to place your legal matter(s) with one of its participating volunteer attorneys. This may take 2 weeks or longer, however, the CED Program may be able to provide more immediate legal services for clients with urgent deadlines.
- ↓
- If your legal matter(s) is placed with a volunteer attorney for representation, he/she will contact you directly to arrange a meeting with you.
- ↓
- The volunteer attorney will then represent your business for the legal matter(s) identified during your initial meeting with LSEM's CED staff person.

For more information,

please contact the CED Program

Office at 314-534-4200 x 1336

or ced@lsem.org.