



Duke Law Start-Up Ventures Clinic (SUVC) - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SUVC?

The SUVC is a free legal clinic operating out of Duke Law through which law student attorneys, under the close supervision of faculty practitioners, provide legal advice and assistance to entrepreneurs and early stage ventures who could not otherwise afford legal services. The SUVC provides advice on a variety of legal matters including company formation, intellectual property protection, commercialization strategies, regulatory issues, and hiring workers.

Who can become a client?

We select clients based on our determination of their ability to afford counsel at the prevailing market rate and the teaching needs of the program. We encourage any North Carolina entrepreneurs in need of legal representation on a specific matter related to starting or operating a business or organization to apply for our services.

How do I become a client?

First, complete our online application, available at <https://law.duke.edu/startupventures/>. (Please note that our online application is live approximately one month prior to the beginning of our semesters, which begin in August and January). If qualified and if the SUVC has capacity, a prospective client will have an initial interview with a student attorney. Based on that interview, a prospective client whom the SUVC agrees to represent receives an engagement letter detailing the scope and terms of our representation. When the prospective client returns a signed copy of the engagement letter accepting these terms, our representation begins.

When are clients served?

The SUVC accepts clients twice a year in two cohorts, August-December and January-May.

I have submitted my application for SUVC services. What happens next?

You will receive a confirmation email, stating that we have received your application. The application is then sent to faculty attorneys, who will evaluate it based on a number of criteria including your potential ability to afford legal services. Once a decision has been made, you will be notified via email if you have been accepted as a client.

How much does it cost?

The SUVC's legal representation is free. SUVC clients are required to pay all filing fees and other costs associated with their legal needs, if any.

Does the SUVC offer advice or services to individuals who are not currently clients?

Unfortunately, the SUVC is not able to provide legal information, advice or consultation on any legal issues to individuals or businesses who are not currently a client of the SUVC.

Does the SUVC offer other services?

The SUVC can present workshops on a variety of legal issues such as: choice of business entity, preparing a business for seeking funding, and the basics of intellectual property law. For more information, please contact us at bryan.mcgann@duke.edu or michael.murphy@duke.edu.



Other questions? Please scan the QR code here to visit our website at <https://law.duke.edu/startupventures/>