Updated: January 30, 2018

*Introducing…*

**CuroStudio**

Venture studio: “a studio-like business building several companies to create an ecosystem that supports a common mission”

**The Access Issue**

For years, the legal industry has been reporting over 80% of Americans who need legal services are not getting them. Potential causes include financial constraints, not knowing they have a legal issue, fear of the system and/or not knowing where to turn for help. In fact, the access gap appears to be growing. The [2017 Legal Services Corporation’s report](https://www.lsc.gov/media-center/publications/2017-justice-gap-report) shows the number has grown to 86%.

If 86% of the population’s legal needs are not being met, the legal industry is failing. We understand the problem and are spending massive amounts of human and financial resources to try and solve it. Really smart and dedicated people are working on these issues every day. The problem persists.

The typical blanket statement that the industry “wants to reduce the access gap” is no longer acceptable. We need to deconstruct the 80% number and examine what metrics should be in place to determine whether people are getting access to legal services and what exactly that entails. We then need to create solutions that focus on those metrics.

In other words, we need a new approach.

**Enter: CuroStudio**

CuroStudio will be the premier legal technology project incubator — developing tools and services to address the access-to-justice gap and improve the delivery of legal services to lead the [“moonshot” goal of solving the access gap in the next 10 years](http://www.curolegal.com/curolegal-moonshot-10-years-no-justice-gap/).

The Studio follows the trend of venture studio models and is a private, for-profit holding company, using industry expertise and software development resources to identify market opportunities and launch new products, with the plan to leverage internal resources, seek outside investment and/or profitable business models to grow and scale projects.

The Studio will provide support services for projects, including design and technology development, business strategy, sales and marketing, unique entry points into the legal market and funding opportunities.

Some ideas will be considered, tested and shelved. The Studio will not chase every shiny object in legal tech that just puts a new coat of paint on current practices. Instead, we will only pursue ventures that will make a significant impact on the future of legal services, consistent with the moonshot. There will be a focus on the centralization of data collection and analysis to better inform future products and services that consumers of legal services need.

The result of this approach will be an ecosystem of solutions making access to justice manageable.

**The CuroStudio Ecosystem**

Initial CuroStudio projects include:

*The Global Legal Hackathon*

We will host the Ohio venue for the [Global Legal Hackathon](https://globallegalhackathon.com/) in February 2018. The hackathon consists of dozens of venues across the globe focused on a weekend of innovating and solving problems for the future of law. Our local venue will include participants from law firms, tech companies, legal aid groups, and bar associations, among others, looking to modernize the delivery of legal services. CuroStudio intends to support ideas that arise from the hackathon that are in line with our mission to make sure such ideas live on after the event concludes.

*A Legal Industry Cryptocurrency*

We are creating a new legal coin. This token will be used within the CuroStudio ecosystem and will be implemented in the broader legal services market. We see real world uses and problems that a legal coin can solve, including helping low income consumers get access to lawyers and other paid legal services that they otherwise would not be able to afford. This coin will also help solo and small firm lawyers get access to technology and services to run more efficient, modern practices.

The Studio plans to launch an Initial Coin Offering during the first half of 2018. The ICO will serve as an introduction of the token into the legal market. The Studio will be sharing a white paper shortly that explains the legal coin in more detail, the problems it will solve and how it can be purchased.

The money raised from the ICO will be used to fund Studio projects. A significant percentage of the ICO proceeds will be earmarked for access-to-justice solutions that will be free to consumers. This includes existing concepts, such as online legal checkups and further development of hatecrimehelp.com. The proceeds can also be used to collaborate with the ABA Center for Innovation on social entrepreneurship endeavors. There are also many grants coming out of Legal Services Corporation and state/local legal aid-related groups. ICO funds can be used to match grants on projects that are in line with the mission of the Studio.

*Blockchain and the Business of Law*

A core Studio project will focus on solutions to improve the business of law by leveraging blockchain technology. This is an emerging area that provides opportunities to modernize the delivery of legal services. We will be integrating blockchain technology into existing products, such as online legal checkups and bar association applications. We will be exploring and building solutions that change how the public and legal professionals interact with courts, how law firms access, store and share client information, and how bar associations can improve services, such as lawyer referral service, among other projects.

CuroStudio has joined the [Global Legal Blockchain Consortium](http://legalconsortium.org/) to help shape the standards and governance of blockchain in the legal profession.

*The Modern Law Firm Model*

A key part of solving the access gap is fixing the law firm model to provide avenues for clients to get more streamlined, cost-effective services and/or allow lawyers to have enough time and income to dedicate more time to pro bono services. CuroStudio’s partners have long focused on how solo lawyers and small law firms can run more efficient firms and better serve clients. A modern law firm model has not been perfected. We see a path to make that happen.

The Studio will break down the existing law model and build solutions resulting in a plug-and-play-type concept (think: franchising) where lawyers can get everything they need to run a practice. This includes intake, technology, best practices and procedures, coaching and training. The Studio will leverage and build upon existing leading tech solutions and bar association applications (such as ABA Blueprint) and will create new applications and services where gaps exist.

*Outside Startups*

The Studio is actively vetting outside, early-stage startups that may be a fit to join the ecosystem. Such startups are creating applications that leverage machine learning to help lawyers fill knowledge gaps on client representation and the use of artificial intelligence to perfect client intake, among others.

**The CuroStudio Partners**

In addition to CuroLegal, CuroStudio partners include:

[Lawyerist](https://lawyerist.com/)

[Mile Two](http://www.miletwo.us/)

[Billie Tarascio](https://mymodernlaw.com/)

This group will vet, cultivate and execute CuroStudio projects.