



MENG IS DOING A NEW STARTUP

LEGALESE.COM

AND INVITING HIS FRIENDS
TO GET INVOLVED AS THEIR SKILLS PERMIT



TL;DR

FULL TEXT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

that

WONG MENG WENG

*or Meng Weng Wong, if you know him from upenn.edu (SEAS '97)
or Burning Man ('03-'15) or Harvard Berkman ('16-'17)*

having previously co-founded

POBOX.COM
exited to Fastmail.fm

HACKERSPACE.SG
Singapore's first hackerspace

KARMASPHERE.COM
exited to FICO

JFDI.ASIA
Singapore's first seed accelerator

and having previously co-authored

SPF
(RFC4408)

a globally deployed opensource email standard based on a domain-specific language

TOGETHER WITH

VIRGIL GRIFFITH
*a Caltech PhD
previously founder of Wikiscanner
and Onion.link*

ONG CHIAH LI
*a domain expert in
startup financings
previously a full-stack VC associate*

ALEXIS CHUN
*a recovering lawyer
previously at TSMP (M&A) and at
Rajah & Tann (commercial litigation)*

SEBASTIAAN DECKERS
*a full-stack Javascript developer
previously teaching web development
at General Assembly*

AND
*a host of other contributors
each equipped with unique superpowers
which humility, not to mention space constraints, forbid adumbrating at this time*

VIKRAM VERMA
*a self-taught mathematician
specialising in dependently typed
functional languages*

JOB CHONG
*a self-taught Javascript developer
fresh out of NUS law school
and thus a π -shaped person*

IS NOW WORKING ON

LEGALESE.COM

*originally an internal project at JFDI Asia
designed to scratch-our-own-itch
that has by our estimation saved JFDI's 69 startups
up to \$125,000 in legal fees*

now being spun out as

A NEW STARTUP

which will apply to **THE LEGAL INDUSTRY**

MARC ANDREESSEN's dictum

“software is eating the world”

*by exploiting the
UNCANNY PARALLELS
(this gets technical; bear with me)*

between

THE DRAFTING OF CONTRACTS

*variable definitions
event-driven callbacks
exception handling
version control*

and

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTWARE

*anonymous functions
if/then/else statements
dependency graphs
collaborative editing*

both of which deal in

*and other notions which
COMPUTER SCIENTISTS
are intimately familiar with*

but which

*LAWYERS
have no names for*

*not because lawyers are in any way unintelligent, but simply because
law predates computer science by hundreds of years
and because, if you think about it,
most senior partners alive today went to law school
when fax machines were new*

WITH THE SIMPLE GOAL

THAT

*what
INTUIT
has done for
ACCOUNTING*

*what
ADOBE
has done for
ART & DESIGN*

*what
AUTODESK
has done for
ENGINEERING*

LEGALESE
will do for
LEGAL

specifically

THE \$160B CORPORATE CONTRACTS INDUSTRY

*because
(if one may be permitted to speak frankly)
in a world where CARS drive THEMSELVES
it is QUITE MAD to pay a HUMAN
FIVE HUNDRED an HOUR
to COPY and PASTE
WORDS upon a PAGE*

FIRST BY DEVELOPING A DSL

dubbed “L4”

a **DOMAIN-SPECIFIC-LANGUAGE**

for **LEGAL AGREEMENTS** and **REGULATIONS**

*that does for the MODAL μ -CALCULUS
what functional languages do for the LAMBDA CALCULUS*

THEN BY BUILDING COMPILERS

which will target **ENGLISH**

and other **NATURAL LANGUAGES**

(imagine multilingual contracts, each provably identical)

and will also target **ETHEREUM**

and other **BLOCKCHAIN PLATFORMS**

(because bugs in smart contracts cost real money)

accompanied by a powerful **STATIC ANALYZER**

capable of **FORMAL VERIFICATION**,

or at any rate **EXHAUSTIVE TEST SUITES**

that prove, to the extent that

such **PROOF** is **MATHEMATICALLY POSSIBLE**,

contracts written in the language are

CORRECT • CONSISTENT • COMPLETE

THUS ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION

*just as SQL is foundational to DATABASES
HTML is foundational to THE WEB
POSTSCRIPT is foundational to DIGITAL PRINTING*

FOR A COMPLETE LEGAL TECH STACK

translating ideas like

IDES, LINTING, BUILD TOOLS,

UNIT TESTS and **FUZZ TESTING**,

OPENSOURCE LIBRARIES, VERSION CONTROL,

and the rest of the PROGRAMMER'S ARSENAL

of **TOOLS** and **TECHNIQUES**

THAT CULMINATES IN END-USER APPS

(not apps for law firms!)

the first of which (our **MVP**)

helps **STARTUPS** generate **ALL** the paperwork

needed to close their **ANGEL ROUNDS**

*which is to say
not just the term sheet
but all the resolutions and filings and
other prerequisites which founders don't always know about)*

WITHOUT

spending **TIME** or **MONEY** on

LAWYERS

*which APPLICATIONS will
slowly but surely
nibble away at the*

high-margin
low-volume
manually operated
jealously proprietary
LAW FIRM

*replacing
it with a*

high-volume
low-margin
automated
largely opensource
NEW INDUSTRY

which we simply call

**COMPUTATIONAL
LEGAL**

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SO DON'T SAY
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE
WILL BE GIVEN
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS