



TL;DR

FULL TEXT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

that

WONG MENG WENG

or Meng Weng Wong, if you're friends from Saints (92) or upenn.edu (SEAS '97)

or Burning Man ('03-'15) or Harvard Berkman ('16-'17)

having previously co-founded

POBOX.COM

exited to Fastmail.fm

KARMASPHERE.COM

exited to FICO

HACKERSPACE.SG

Singapore's first hackerspace

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

ALEXIS CHUN

a recovering lawyer

previously at TSMP (M&A) and at

Rajah & Tann (commercial litigation)

VIKRAM

VERMA

a self-taught mathematician

specialising in dependently typed

functional languages

VIRGIL

GRIFFITH

a Caltech PhD

previously founder of Wikiscanner

and Onion.link

SEBASTIAAN

DECKERS

a full-stack Javascript developer

previously teaching web development

at General Assembly

ONG CHIAH LI

a domain expert in

startup financings

previously a full-stack VC associate

JOB CHONG

a self-taught Javascript developer

fresh out of NUS law school

and thus a π -shaped person

AND

a host of other contributors

each equipped with unique superpowers

which humility, not to mention space constraints, forbid adumbrating at this time

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 \$345,000 in legal fees

now being spun out as

A SHINY NEW STARTUP

which will apply

MARC ANDREESSEN's dictum

"SOFTWARE IS EATING THE WORLD"

to the LEGAL INDUSTRY

by exploiting the

UNCANNY PARALLELS

(this gets technical; bear with me)

between

THE DRAFTING OF
CONTRACTS

and

THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SOFTWARE

both of which deal in

variable definitions
event-driven callbacks
exception handling
version control

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

and other notions which

COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

are intimately familiar with

but which

LAWYERS

have no names for

not because lawyers are necessarily UNINTELLIGENT, but simply because

law PREDATES computer science by THOUSANDS of years

and because, if you think about it,

most SENIOR PARTNERS alive today were in 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

speaking of which

(if one may be frank again)

most programmers write PROGRAMS;

fewer (very advanced) coders write COMPILERS

which compile the programs to their final form;

but many lawyers ACT AS compilers -

it's as if they missed the memo

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 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 APPS

for end-users

not 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 most founders don't 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 call

COMPUTATIONAL
LEGAL

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<http://computational.legal>

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS



MENG IS DOING A NEW STARTUP

LEGALESE.COM

AND INVITING HIS FRIENDS
TO GET INVOLVED AS THEIR SKILLS PERMIT



SO DON'T SAY
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE
WILL BE GIVEN
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS