



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'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*

**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*

**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*

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

**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  $\pi$ -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 \$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 hundreds 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*

*and because  
(if one were to speak even more frankly)  
many of those humans are SO INSUFFERABLY SMUG  
about how much MORE they charge than, say, a programmer,  
even though the work we do is JUST AS DEMANDING,  
it is HIGH TIME somebody  
put a STOP to it*

FIRST BY DEVELOPING A DSL

dubbed "L4"

a **DOMAIN-SPECIFIC-LANGUAGE**  
for **LEGAL AGREEMENTS** and **REGULATIONS**  
*that does for the MODAL  $\mu$ -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 one last time)  
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  
**NEW INDUSTRY**

high-volume  
low-margin  
automated  
largely opensource  
**NEW INDUSTRY**

which we call

**COMPUTATIONAL  
LEGAL**

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SO DON'T SAY  
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE  
WILL BE GIVEN  
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS