



MENG IS DOING A NEW STARTUP

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**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*

**JEDI.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  $\pi$ -shaped person*

IS NOW WORKING ON

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*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**

*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 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 frankly)*  
*so 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,*  
*and 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**

THUS ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION

just as **SQL** is foundational to **DATABASES**

**HTML** is foundational to **THE WEB**

**POSTSCRIPT** is foundational to **DIGITAL PRINTING**

*if you think about it*  
*(if one may be frank one last time)*  
*most coders write PROGRAMS;*  
*fewer (very advanced) coders write COMPILERS*  
*which compile the programs;*  
*but many lawyers ACT AS compilers -*  
*it's like they missed the memo*

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 simply call

**COMPUTATIONAL  
LEGAL**

# KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS



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SO DON'T SAY  
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE  
WILL BE GIVEN  
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS