



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

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

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

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*

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

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

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 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 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*

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 ARE 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

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SO DON'T SAY
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE
WILL BE GIVEN
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS