


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

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*

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

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

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
LAW

specifically,

THE \$80B 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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SO DON'T SAY
BO JIO

NO FURTHER NOTICE
WILL BE GIVEN
BECAUSE SPAM SUCKS