



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

WONG 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 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 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 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