



## “EQUALIZER” INSTITUTE

### A Project of the New England Legal Foundation

- OBJECTIVE:** To create a free legal clinic in each New England state to start and launch new businesses owned by underrepresented groups that cannot afford counsel, including black-owned, New American-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, low income-owned, and college entrepreneur-owned businesses. These Legal Entrepreneur Support Organizations (“Legal ESOs”) can serve as a model for other cities, states, and regions.
- ORGANIZATION:** The “Equalizer” Institute will operate as a NELF subsidiary and NELF will provide the administrative and operational platform to allow most financial support of the Institute to fund actual legal services. The Institute will serve as the umbrella organization for an “L-Integrator” Legal Services Center in each New England state. Each Center will operate at least one Legal Clinic in that state. Each Center will be staffed by a corporate lawyer (formation and finance), real estate lawyer (permitting and leases), and employment lawyer (workforce and administrative law) with a shared paralegal and a shared Intellectual Property lawyer.
- SCALE:** Each Center will partner with at least one law school in that state to create a clinical program to teach law students how to start and launch new businesses as counsel for entrepreneurs. Each Center will offer pro bono support opportunities with law firms in that state for finite projects while over time creating a referral channel for businesses that can afford counsel.
- BENEFIT:** Free enterprise is one of the great equalizers of American society. The “Equalizer” Institute will serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurial growth in each New England state, unlocking the potential for new jobs and the opportunity for self-sufficient owners and employees. Teaching law students how to start and launch new businesses will disrupt the legal eco-system by creating new lawyers capable of providing legal services to new businesses at lower cost.
- FUNDING:** Seed funding will be required from foundations, corporations, law firms, and individuals focused on social economic justice and entrepreneurial support. Each state Center will require \$1 million for launch, staffing, and initial operations. Ongoing funding from NELF fundraising and law firm channel partner support will maintain each Center after launch.
- INFORMATION:** For more information, please contact Daniel B. Winslow, President, New England Legal Foundation at [dwinslow@newenglandlegal.org](mailto:dwinslow@newenglandlegal.org). Information about NELF is available online at [www.newenglandlegal.org](http://www.newenglandlegal.org).