

Early-Stage Companies

Lewis Rice's Early-Stage Companies practice group provides comprehensive legal support tailored to the unique needs of startups and emerging businesses. We guide founders through every phase of growth, from initial formation and funding to scaling operations and strategic exits. Our team counsels clients in corporate structuring, venture capital and other financing alternatives, intellectual property, employment law, and regulatory compliance. With a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities early-stage companies face, we are committed to providing innovative and practical legal solutions to help your business thrive in a competitive landscape.

Your First IP Strategy: A Startup Checklist

What You Should Protect

- **Your name, logo, and brand** — before someone else uses or registers them.
- **Creative assets** — images, videos, music, social content, product design visuals.
- **Technology and software** — your “secret sauce,” including code, architecture, UX, and key ideas.

What to Ask Your Team

- What IP is critical to our growth and success?
- Who is creating it?
- Do we have a paper trail from those people to the business?

When to Call a Lawyer

- You're signing a contract, NDA, license, or investor deal.
- You're launching, demoing, or pitching your product.
- You're building with collaborators (co-founders, freelancers, developers, contractors).

Tip: You don't need a huge budget, you just need a plan. The earlier you ask, the cheaper the fix.



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Want to Learn More About IP?

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A Lawyer's Guide to the Galaxy

