

GOING SOLO? DON'T DO IT ALONE

THE CASE FOR JOINING A LEGAL INCUBATOR

Hamid Yazdan Panah

Editor's Note: The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) President Michael Tubach announced in his installation speech on December 17, 2015, the formation of the Community Law Practice Incubator (CLPI). Applications are now being accepted for participants.

Going solo can be a daunting proposition, but it is not without its benefits. For some, the idea of being their own boss is reason enough to take the plunge. For others, the flexible schedule and independence makes practical sense for the life they want to lead. Others are simply looking for an alternative path to life at a big firm or a nonprofit.

Whatever the reason, it is never too early, or too late, to go solo.

But how to get started? This is the question that anyone who wants to take that step faces. One model that may offer a solution to start a solo practice is the legal incubator. A legal incubator is designed not only to help new solos build their practice and learn new practice areas but also to serve the community while doing it.

The Community Law Practice Incubator (CLPI) is one such program put together by BASF in partnership with the Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) and the Lawyer Referral and Information Service. The CLPI program provides new solos a variety of resources to set up a practice, including access to office space in the Financial District at BASF; practice tools and resources including networking, attorney mentors, and case review; and advice from other solo practitioners already established.

The incubator also allows solos to connect directly with pro bono and low-fee clients to put practice skills into action and build their business. The program allows participants to work with mentor attorneys on their cases and consult experts in specific practice areas too.

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The resources provided by CLPI as a legal incubator not only eliminate the need for costly overhead, but provide a new solo with guidance, support, structure, and clients to get through the first year and on to establishing a practice that is sustainable and serves our community.

Hamid Yazdan Panah is an attorney and the Community Law Practice Incubator coordinator. To learn more, contact him at hpanah@sfbbar.org or visit www.sfbbar.org/clpi.



COMMUNITY LAW PRACTICE INCUBATOR

Start Your Own Practice — Serve the Community

Seeking New Solos!

Are you or someone you know interested in starting a solo practice? Apply now to participate in the Community Law Practice Incubator (CLPI).

The Bar Association of San Francisco created CLPI in partnership with its Justice & Diversity Center and Lawyer Referral and Information Service.

CLPI aims to serve the professional needs of attorneys within their first three years of practice, and expand access to affordable legal services for low-income persons.

CLPI will enroll six participants who must stay in the incubator program for six months but are strongly encouraged to continue for a maximum of one year.

CLPI provides participants with substantive training and supervision in three areas of practice in which the public's unmet need for representation remains high:

- Family Law
- Landlord-Tenant
- Bankruptcy

Questions?

Contact Hamid Yazdan Panah, attorney at law and CLPI coordinator, at hpanah@sfbar.org.

Apply at:

www.sfbar.org/clpi

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