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REV 16 March 2017



**Startup Forms: Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement for Employees**

**General Guidelines for Forms**

As a general matter, you should not make substantive changes to any of the forms included in the Startup Forms Library without checking with your legal counsel. We are constantly improving and updating our forms to keep up with developments in the law and in what's "standard" in the market. As such, you should check here periodically to determine whether you have the latest forms available.

**Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement for Employees**

This form is designed to be used by the Company after initial consultation with counsel. Every employee and consultant (i.e., every service provider) should sign one, although there are different forms for use by employees vs. consultants. The Company should keep these in the person’s personnel file. Make sure it is filled out completely, including the Exhibits at the end of the document. If there is nothing to disclose on the Exhibit, have the person check the appropriate line and sign the Exhibit as well as the main agreement signature page. This is critical and will be the subject of careful due diligence by any serious investors.

These forms are generally designed for use by companies with employees and consultants in California. You should consult with counsel for use in other jurisdictions.

**Using these Forms**

The document below includes footnotes with additional information. The footnotes must be deleted by you or your counsel before execution.

Please note that even minor language changes to this form can have significant impacts on the rights of the parties and on the Company’s ability to implement its business plan and attract future investment.

[Company Name]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND
INVENTION ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT

Employee Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a condition of my becoming employed (or my employment being continued) by [Company Name], a Delaware corporation, or any of its current or future subsidiaries, affiliates, successors or assigns (collectively, the “Company”), and in consideration of my employment with the Company and my receipt of the compensation now and hereafter paid to me by the Company, the receipt of Confidential Information (as defined below) while associated with the Company, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I hereby agree to the following: [[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Relationship**.** This Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement[[3]](#footnote-3) (this “Agreement”) will apply to my employment relationship with the Company. If that relationship ends and the Company, within one (1) year thereafter, either reemploys me or engages me as a consultant, I agree that this Agreement will also apply to such later employment or consulting relationship, unless the Company and I otherwise agree in writing. Any employment or consulting relationship between the parties hereto, whether commenced prior to, upon or after the date of this Agreement, is referred to herein as the “Relationship.”
2. **Applicability to Past Activities.** The Company and I acknowledge that I may have performed work, activities, services or made efforts on behalf of or for the benefit of the Company, or related to the current or prospective business of the Company in anticipation of my involvement with the Company, that would have been within the scope of my duties under this agreement if performed during the term of this Agreement, for a period of time prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement (the “Prior Period”). Accordingly, if and to the extent that, during the Prior Period: (i) I received access to any information from or on behalf of the Company that would have been Confidential Information (as defined below) if I received access to such information during the term of this Agreement; or (ii) I (a) conceived, created, authored, invented, developed or reduced to practice any item (including any intellectual property rights with respect thereto) on behalf of or for the benefit of the Company, or related to the current or prospective business of the Company in anticipation of my involvement with the Company, that would have been an Invention (as defined below) if conceived, created, authored, invented, developed or reduced to practice during the term of this Agreement; or (b) incorporated into any such item any pre-existing invention, improvement, development, concept, discovery or other proprietary information that would have been a Prior Invention (as defined below) if incorporated into such item during the term of this Agreement; then any such information shall be deemed “Confidential Information” hereunder and any such item shall be deemed an “Invention” or “Prior Invention” hereunder, and this Agreement shall apply to such activities, information or item as if disclosed, conceived, created, authored, invented, developed or reduced to practice during the term of this Agreement.
3. Confidential Information**.**
	1. **Protection of Information.** I understand that during the Relationship, the Company intends to provide me with certain information, including Confidential Information (as defined below), without which I would not be able to perform my duties to the Company. At all times during the term of the Relationship and thereafter, I shall hold in strictest confidence, and not use, except for the benefit of the Company to the extent necessary to perform my obligations to the Company under the Relationship, and not disclose to any person, firm, corporation or other entity, without written authorization from the Company in each instance, any Confidential Information that I obtain, access or create during the term of the Relationship, whether or not during working hours, until such Confidential Information becomes publicly and widely known and made generally available through no wrongful act of mine or of others who were under confidentiality obligations as to the item or items involved. I shall not make copies of such Confidential Information except as authorized by the Company or in the ordinary course of my obligations to the Company under the Relationship.
	2. **Confidential Information.** I understand that “Confidential Information” means any and all information and physical manifestations thereof not generally known or available outside the Company and information and physical manifestations thereof entrusted to the Company in confidence by third parties, whether or not such information is patentable, copyrightable or otherwise legally protectable. Confidential Information includes, without limitation: (i) Company Inventions (as defined below); and (ii) technical data, trade secrets, know-how, research, product or service ideas or plans, software codes and designs, algorithms, developments, inventions, patent applications, laboratory notebooks, processes, formulas, techniques, biological materials, mask works, engineering designs and drawings, hardware configuration information, agreements with third parties, lists of, or information relating to, employees and consultants of the Company (including, but not limited to, the names, contact information, jobs, compensation, and expertise of such employees and consultants), lists of, or information relating to, suppliers and customers (including, but not limited to, customers of the Company on whom I called or with whom I became acquainted during the Relationship), price lists, pricing methodologies, cost data, market share data, marketing plans, licenses, contract information, business plans, financial forecasts, historical financial data, budgets or other business information disclosed to me by the Company either directly or indirectly, whether in writing, electronically, orally, or by observation.
	3. **Third Party Information.** My agreements in this Section 3 are intended to be for the benefit of the Company and any third party that has entrusted information or physical material to the Company in confidence. During the term of the Relationship and thereafter, I will not improperly use or disclose to the Company any confidential, proprietary or secret information of my former employer(s) or any other person, and I will not bring any such information onto the Company’s property or place of business.
	4. **Other Rights.** This Agreement is intended to supplement, and not to supersede, any rights the Company may have in law or equity with respect to the protection of trade secrets or confidential or proprietary information.
	5. **U.S. Defend Trade Secrets Act.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the U.S. Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (“DTSA”) provides that an individual shall not be held criminally or civilly liable under any federal or state trade secret law for the disclosure of a trade secret that is made (i) in confidence to a federal, state, or local government official, either directly or indirectly, or to an attorney; and (ii) solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; or (iii) in a complaint or other document filed in a lawsuit or other proceeding, if such filing is made under seal. In addition, DTSA provides that an individual who files a lawsuit for retaliation by an employer for reporting a suspected violation of law may disclose the trade secret to the attorney of the individual and use the trade secret information in the court proceeding, if the individual (A) files any document containing the trade secret under seal; and (B) does not disclose the trade secret, except pursuant to court order.
4. Ownership of Inventions**.**
	1. **Inventions Retained and Licensed.** I have attached hereto, as Exhibit A, a complete list describing with particularity all Inventions (as defined below) that, as of the Effective Date: (i) have been created by or on behalf of me, and/or (ii) are owned exclusively by me or jointly by me with others or in which I have an interest, and that relate in any way to any of the Company’s actual or proposed businesses, products, services, or research and development, and which are not assigned to the Company hereunder (collectively “Prior Inventions”); or, if no such list is attached, I represent and warrant that there are no such Inventions at the time of signing this Agreement, and to the extent such Inventions do exist and are not listed on Exhibit A, I hereby irrevocably and forever waive any and all rights or claims of ownership to such Inventions. I understand that my listing of any Inventions on Exhibit A does not constitute an acknowledgement by the Company of the existence or extent of such Inventions, nor of my ownership of such Inventions. I further understand that I must receive the formal approval of the Company before commencing my Relationship with the Company.
	2. **Use or Incorporation of Inventions.** If in the course of the Relationship, I use or incorporate into any of the Company’s products, services, processes or machines any Invention not assigned to the Company pursuant to Section 4(d) of this Agreement in which I have an interest, I will promptly so inform the Company in writing. Whether or not I give such notice, I hereby irrevocably grant to the Company a nonexclusive, fully paid-up, royalty-free, assumable, perpetual, worldwide license, with right to transfer and to sublicense, to practice and exploit such Invention and to make, have made, copy, modify, make derivative works of, use, sell, import, and otherwise distribute such Invention under all applicable intellectual property laws without restriction of any kind.
	3. **Inventions.** I understand that “Inventions” means discoveries, developments, concepts, designs, ideas, know how, modifications, improvements, derivative works, inventions, trade secrets and/or original works of authorship, whether or not patentable, copyrightable or otherwise legally protectable. I understand this includes, but is not limited to, any new product, machine, article of manufacture, biological material, method, procedure, process, technique, use, equipment, device, apparatus, system, compound, formulation, composition of matter, design or configuration of any kind, or any improvement thereon. I understand that “Company Inventions” means any and all Inventions that I may solely or jointly author, discover, develop, conceive, or reduce to practice during the period of the Relationship or otherwise in connection with the Relationship, except as otherwise provided in Section 4(g) below.
	4. **Assignment of Company Inventions.** I will promptly make full written disclosure to the Company, will hold in trust for the sole right and benefit of the Company, and hereby assign to the Company, or its designee, all of my right, title and interest throughout the world in and to any and all Company Inventions and all patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret and other intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights therein. I hereby waive and irrevocably quitclaim to the Company or its designee any and all claims, of any nature whatsoever, that I now have or may hereafter have for infringement of any and all Company Inventions. I further acknowledge that all Company Inventions that are made by me (solely or jointly with others) within the scope of and during the period of the Relationship are “works made for hire” (to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law) and are compensated by my salary. Any assignment of Company Inventions includes all rights of attribution, paternity, integrity, modification, disclosure and withdrawal, and any other rights throughout the world that may be known as or referred to as “moral rights,” “artist’s rights,” “droit moral,” or the like (collectively, “Moral Rights”). To the extent that Moral Rights cannot be assigned under applicable law, I hereby waive and agree not to enforce any and all Moral Rights, including, without limitation, any limitation on subsequent modification, to the extent permitted under applicable law. If I have any rights to the Company Inventions, other than Moral Rights, that cannot be assigned to the Company, I hereby unconditionally and irrevocably grant to the Company during the term of such rights, an exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, fully paid and royalty-free license, with rights to sublicense through multiple levels of sublicensees, to reproduce, distribute, display, perform, prepare derivative works of and otherwise modify, make, have made, sell, offer to sell, import, practice methods, processes and procedures and otherwise use and exploit, such Company Inventions.
	5. **Maintenance of Records.** I shall keep and maintain adequate and current written records of all Company Inventions made or conceived by me (solely or jointly with others) during the term of the Relationship. The records may be in the form of notes, sketches, drawings, flow charts, electronic data or recordings, laboratory notebooks, or any other format. The records will be available to and remain the sole property of the Company at all times. I shall not remove such records from the Company’s place of business or systems except as expressly permitted by Company policy which may, from time to time, be revised at the sole election of the Company for the purpose of furthering the Company’s business. I shall deliver all such records (including any copies thereof) to the Companyat the time of termination of the Relationship as provided for in Section 5 and Section 6.
	6. **Intellectual Property Rights.** I shall assist the Company, or its designee, at its expense, in every proper way in securing the Company’s, or its designee’s,rights in the Company Inventions and any copyrights, patents, trademarks, mask work rights, Moral Rights, or other intellectual property rights relating thereto in any and all countries, including the disclosure to the Company or its designee of all pertinent information and data with respect thereto, the execution of all applications, specifications, oaths, assignments, recordations, and all other instruments which the Company or its designee shall deem necessary in order to apply for, obtain, maintain and transfer such rights, or if not transferable, waive and shall never assert such rights, and in order to assign and convey to the Company or its designee, and any successors, assigns and nominees the sole and exclusive right, title and interest in and to such Company Inventions, and any copyrights, patents, mask work rights or other intellectual property rights relating thereto. My obligation to execute or cause to be executed, when it is in my power to do so, any such instrument or papers shall continue during and at all times after the end of the Relationship and until the expiration of the last such intellectual property right to expire in any country of the world. I hereby irrevocably designate and appoint the Companyand its duly authorized officers and agents as my agent and attorney-in-fact, to act for and in my behalf and stead to execute and file any such instruments and papers and to do all other lawfully permitted acts to further the application for, prosecution, issuance, maintenance or transfer of letters patent, copyright, mask work and other registrations related to such Company Inventions. This power of attorney is coupled with an interest and shall not be affected by my subsequent incapacity.
	7. **Exception to Assignments.** Subject to the requirements of applicable state law, if any, I understand that the Company Inventions will not include, and the provisions of this Agreement requiring assignment of inventions to the Companydo not apply to, any invention which qualifies fully for exclusion under the provisions of applicable state law, if any[, attached hereto as Exhibit B]. In order to assist in the determination of which inventions qualify for such exclusion, I will advise the Company promptly in writing, during and for a period of twelve (12) months immediately following the termination of the Relationship, of all Inventions solely or jointly conceived or developed or reduced to practice by me during the period of the Relationship.
5. Company Property; Returning Company Documents**.** I acknowledge that I have no expectation of privacy with respect to the Company’s telecommunications, networking or information processing systems (including, without limitation, files, e-mail messages, and voice messages) and that my activity and any files or messages on or using any of those systems may be monitored or reviewed at any time without notice. I further acknowledge that any property situated on the Company’s premises or systems and owned by the Company, including disks and other storage media, filing cabinets or other work areas, is subject to inspection by Company personnel at any time with or without notice. At the time of termination of the Relationship, I will deliver to the Company (and will not keep in my possession, recreate or deliver to anyone else) any and all devices, records, data, notes, reports, proposals, lists, correspondence, specifications, drawings, blueprints, sketches, laboratory notebooks, materials, flow charts, equipment, other documents or property, or reproductions of any of the aforementioned items developed by me pursuant to the Relationship or otherwise belonging to the Company, its successors or assigns.
6. Termination Certification**.** In the event of the termination of the Relationship, I shall sign and deliver the “Termination Certification” attached hereto as Exhibit [C/ B]; however, my failure to sign and deliver the Termination Certification shall in no way diminish my continuing obligations under this Agreement.
7. Notice to Third Parties**.** During the periods of time during which I am restricted in taking certain actions by the terms of Section 8 of this Agreement (the “Restriction Period”), I shall inform any entity or person with whom I may seek to enter into a business relationship (whether as an owner, employee, independent contractor or otherwise) of my contractual obligations under this Agreement. I acknowledge that the Company may, with or without prior notice to me and whether during or after the term of the Relationship, notify third parties of my agreements and obligations under this Agreement. Upon written request by the Company, I will respond to the Company in writing regarding the status of my employment or proposed employment with any party during the Restriction Period.
8. Solicitation of Employees, Consultants and Other Parties**.** As described above, I acknowledge that the Company’s Confidential Information includes information relating to the Company’s employees, consultants, customers and others, and I will not use or disclose such Confidential Information except as authorized by the Company in advance in writing. I further agree as follows:
	1. **Employees, Consultants.** During the term of the Relationship, and for a period of twelve (12) months immediately following the termination of the Relationship for any reason, whether with or without cause, I shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit any of the Company’s employees or consultants to terminate their relationship with the Company, or attempt to solicit employees or consultants of the Company, either for myself or for any other person or entity.
	2. **Other Parties.** During the term of the Relationship, I will not influence any of the Company’s clients, licensors, licensees or customers from purchasing Company products or services or solicit or influence or attempt to influence any client, licensor, licensee, customer or other person either directly or indirectly, to direct any purchase of products and/or services to any person, firm, corporation, institution or other entity in competition with the business of the Company.
9. At-Will Relationship**.** I understand and acknowledge that, except as may be otherwise explicitly provided in a separate written agreement between the Company and me, my Relationship with the Company is and shall continue to be at-will, as defined under applicable law, meaning that either I or the Company may terminate the Relationship at any time for any reason or no reason, without further obligation or liability, other than those provisions of this Agreement that explicitly continue in effect after the termination of the Relationship.
10. Representations and Covenants**.**
	1. **Facilitation of Agreement.** I shall execute promptly, both during and after the end of the Relationship, any proper oath, and to verify any proper document, required to carry out the terms of this Agreement, upon the Company’s written request to do so.
	2. **No Conflicts.** I represent and warrant that my performance of all the terms of this Agreement does not and will not breach any agreement I have entered into, or will enter into, with any third party, including without limitation any agreement to keep in confidence proprietary information or materials acquired by me in confidence or in trust prior to or during the Relationship. I will not disclose to the Company or use any inventions, confidential or non-public proprietary information or material belonging to any previous client, employer or any other party. I will not induce the Company to use any inventions, confidential or non-public proprietary information, or material belonging to any previous client, employer or any other party. I represent and warrant that I have listed on Exhibit A all agreements (*e.g.,* non-competition agreements, non-solicitation of customers agreements, non-solicitation of employees agreements, confidentiality agreements, inventions agreements, etc.), if any, with a current or former client, employer, or any other person or entity, that may restrict my ability to accept employment with the Company or my ability to recruit or engage customers or service providers on behalf of the Company, or otherwise relate to or restrict my ability to perform my duties for the Company or any obligation I may have to the Company. I shall not enter into any written or oral agreement that conflicts with the provisions of this Agreement.
	3. **Voluntary Execution.** I certify and acknowledge that I have carefully read all of the provisions of this Agreement, that I understand and have voluntarily accepted such provisions, and that I will fully and faithfully comply with such provisions.
11. Electronic Delivery. Nothing herein is intended to imply a right to participate in any of the Company’s equity incentive plans, however, if I do participate in such plan(s), the Company may, in its sole discretion, decide to deliver any documents related to my participation in the Company’s equity incentive plan(s) by electronic means or to request my consent to participate in such plan(s) by electronic means. I hereby consent to receive such documents by electronic delivery and agree, if applicable, to participate in such plan(s) through an on-line or electronic system established and maintained by the Company or a third party designated by the Company.
12. Miscellaneous**.**
	1. **Governing Law.** The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement, and all acts and transactions pursuant hereto and the rights and obligations of the parties hereto shall be governed, construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of [*In many cases this should be the state where the service provider is located --* *California, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota and Washington may require that certain code sections are attached for individuals]* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of law.
	2. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the Company and me relating to its subject matter and merges all prior discussions between us. No amendment to this Agreement will be effective unless in writing signed by both parties to this Agreement. The Company shall not be deemed hereby to have waived any rights or remedies it may have in law or equity, nor to have given any authorizations or waived any of its rights under this Agreement, unless, and only to the extent, it does so by a specific writing signed by a duly authorized officer of the Company, it being understood that, even if I am an officer of the Company, I will not have authority to give any such authorizations or waivers for the Company under this Agreement without specific approval by the Board of Directors. Any subsequent change or changes in my duties, obligations, rights or compensation will not affect the validity or scope of this Agreement.
	3. **Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement will be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and other legal representatives, and my successors and assigns, and will be for the benefit of the Company, its successors, and its assigns.
	4. **Notices.** Any notice, demand or request required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed sufficient when delivered personally or by overnight courier or sent by email, or 48 hours after being deposited in the U.S. mail as certified or registered mail with postage prepaid, addressed to the party to be notified at such party’s address as set forth on the signature page, as subsequently modified by written notice, or if no address is specified on the signature page, at the most recent address set forth in the Company’s books and records.
	5. **Severability.** If one or more of the provisions in this Agreement are deemed void or unenforceable to any extent in any context, such provisions shall nevertheless be enforced to the fullest extent allowed by law in that and other contexts, and the validity and force of the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected. The Company and I have attempted to limit my right to use, maintain and disclose the Company’s Confidential Information, and to limit my right to solicit employees and customers only to the extent necessary to protect the Company from unfair competition. Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that the scope of the covenants contained in Section 8 exceeds the maximum restrictiveness such court deems reasonable and enforceable, the parties intend that the court should reform, modify and enforce the provision to such narrower scope as it determines to be reasonable and enforceable under the circumstances existing at that time.
	6. **Remedies.** I acknowledge that violation of this Agreement by me may cause the Company irreparable harm, and therefore I agree that the Company will be entitled to seek extraordinary relief in court, including, but not limited to, temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions and permanent injunctions without the necessity of posting a bond or other security (or, where such a bond or security is required, that a $1,000 bond will be adequate),in addition to and without prejudice to any other rights or remedies that the Company may have for a breach of this Agreement.
	7. **Advice of Counsel.** I acknowledge THAT, IN EXECUTING THIS AGREEMENT, I Have HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL, AND I Have read and understood ALL OF THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AGAINST ANY PARTY BY REASON OF THE DRAFTING OR PREPARATION HEREOF.
	8. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement. Execution of a facsimile or scanned copy will have the same force and effect as execution of an original, and a facsimile or scanned signature will be deemed an original and valid signature.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

The parties have executed this Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement on the respective dates set forth below, to be effective as of the Effective Date first above written.

**the company:**

[Company Name]

By:

 (Signature)

Name:

Title:

Address:
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_
United States

Date:

**Employee:**

(Print Name)

(Signature)

Address:

Email:

Date:

EXHIBIT A

LIST OF PRIOR INVENTIONS
AND ORIGINAL WORKS OF AUTHORSHIP
EXCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4(a) AND CONFLICTING AGREEMENTS DISCLOSED UNDER SECTION 10(b)

The following is a list of (i) all Inventions that, as of the Effective Date: (A) have been created by me or on my behalf, and/or (B) are owned exclusively by me or jointly by me with others or in which I have an interest, and that relate in any way to any of the Company’s actual or proposed businesses, products, services, or research and development, and which are not assigned to the Company hereunder and (ii) all agreements, if any, with a current or former client, employer, or any other person or entity, that may restrict my ability to accept employment with the Company or my ability to recruit or engage customers or service providers on behalf of the Company, or otherwise relate to or restrict my ability to perform my duties for the Company or any obligation I may have to the Company:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|         Title         |    Date    | Identifying Numberor Brief Description |
|  |  |  |

Except as indicated above on this Exhibit, I have no inventions, improvements or original works to disclose pursuant to Section 4(a) of this Agreement and no agreements to disclose pursuant to Section 10(b) of this Agreement.

\_\_\_ Additional sheets attached

Signature of Employee:

Print Name of Employee:

 Date:

EXHIBIT B

***NOTE: If the counterparty is in California, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota or Washington the code sections must be attached or the Company may forfeit important rights and remedies!*** [Section 2870 of the California Labor Code is as follows:

 (a) Any provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign, or offer to assign, any of his or her rights in an invention to his or her employer shall not apply to an invention that the employee developed entirely on his or her own time without using the employer’s equipment, supplies, facilities, or trade secret information except for those inventions that either:

 (1) Relate at the time of conception or reduction to practice of the invention to the employer’s business, or actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development of the employer; or

 (2) Result from any work performed by the employee for the employer.

 (b) To the extent a provision in an employment agreement purports to require an employee to assign an invention otherwise excluded from being required to be assigned under subdivision (a), the provision is against the public policy of this state and is unenforceable.]

**OR**

[RCW 49.44.140 of the Revised Code of Washington is as follows:

(1) A provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign or offer to assign any of the employee’s rights in an invention to the employer does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facilities, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee’s own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) directly to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer. Any provision which purports to apply to such an invention is to that extent against the public policy of this state and is to that extent void and unenforceable.

(2) An employer shall not require a provision made void and unenforceable by subsection (1) of this section as a condition of employment or continuing employment.

(3) If an employment agreement entered into after September 1, 1979, contains a provision requiring the employee to assign any of the employee’s rights in any invention to the employer, the employer must also, at the time the agreement is made, provide a written notification to the employee that the agreement does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee’s own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) directly to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer.]

**OR**

[Chapter 765, Section 1060/2 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes is as follows:

(1) A provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign or offer to assign any of the employee's rights in an invention to the employer does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facilities, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer. Any provision which purports to apply to such an invention is to that extent against the public policy of this State and is to that extent void and unenforceable. The employee shall bear the burden of proof in establishing that his invention qualifies under this subsection.

(2) An employer shall not require a provision made void and unenforceable by subsection (1) of this Section as a condition of employment or continuing employment. This Act shall not preempt existing common law applicable to any shop rights of employers with respect to employees who have not signed an employment agreement.

(3) If an employment agreement entered into after January 1, 1984, contains a provision requiring the employee to assign any of the employee's rights in any invention to the employer, the employer must also, at the time the agreement is made, provide a written notification to the employee that the agreement does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer.]

**OR**

[Sections 44-130 of the Kansas Labor and Industries Code is as follows:

(a) Any provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign or offer to assign any of the employee's rights in an invention to the employer shall not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facilities or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless:

 (1) The invention relates to the business of the employer or to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development; or

 (2) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer.

(b) Any provision in an employment agreement which purports to apply to an invention which it is prohibited from applying to under subsection (a), is to that extent against the public policy of this state and is to that extent void and unenforceable. No employer shall require a provision made void and unenforceable by this section as a condition of employment or continuing employment.

(c) If an employment agreement contains a provision requiring the employee to assign any of the employee's rights in any invention to the employer, the employer shall provide, at the time the agreement is made, a written notification to the employee that the agreement does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless:

 (1) The invention relates directly to the business of the employer or to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development; or

 (2) The invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer.

(d) Even though the employee meets the burden of proving the conditions specified in this section, the employee shall disclose, at the time of employment or thereafter, all inventions being developed by the employee, for the purpose of determining employer and employee rights in an invention.]

**OR**

[Section 181.78 of the Minnesota Labor, Industry Code is as follows:

Subdivision 1. Inventions not related to employment. Any provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign or offer to assign any of the employee's rights in an invention to the employer shall not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, and (1) which does not relate (a) directly to the business of the employer or (b) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (2) which does not result from any work performed by the employee for the employer. Any provision which purports to apply to such an invention is to that extent against the public policy of this state and is to that extent void and unenforceable.

Subd. 2. Effect of subdivision 1. No employer shall require a provision made void and unenforceable by subdivision 1 as a condition of employment or continuing employment.

Subd. 3. Notice to employee. If an employment agreement entered into after August 1, 1977 contains a provision requiring the employee to assign or offer to assign any of the employee's rights in any invention to an employer, the employer must also, at the time the agreement is made, provide a written notification to the employee that the agreement does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, and (1) which does not relate (a) directly to the business of the employer or (b) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (2) which does not result from any work performed by the employee for the employer.]

EXHIBIT C

TERMINATION CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that I do not have in my possession, nor have I failed to return, any devices, records, data, notes, reports, proposals, lists, correspondence, specifications, drawings, blueprints, sketches, laboratory notebooks, flow charts, materials, equipment, other documents or property, or copies or reproductions of any aforementioned items belonging to [Company Name], a Delaware corporation, its subsidiaries, affiliates, successors or assigns (collectively, the “Company”).

I further certify that I have complied with all the terms of the Company’s Confidential Information and Invention Assignment Agreement (the “Confidentiality Agreement”)signed by me, including the reporting of any Inventions (as defined therein), conceived or made by me (solely or jointly with others) covered by the Confidentiality Agreement, and I acknowledge my continuing obligations under the Confidentiality Agreement.

I further agree that, in compliance with the Confidentiality Agreement, I will preserve as confidential all trade secrets, confidential knowledge, data or other proprietary information relating to products, processes, know-how, designs, formulas, developmental or experimental work, computer programs, data bases, other original works of authorship, customer lists, business plans, financial information or other subject matter pertaining to any business of the Company or any of its employees, clients, consultants or licensees.

I further agree that for twelve (12) months immediately following the termination of my Relationship with the Company, I shall not either directly or indirectly solicit any of the Company’s employees or consultants to terminate their relationship with the Company, or attempt to solicit employees or consultants of the Company, either for myself or for any other person or entity.

Further, I agree that I shall not use any Confidential Information of the Company to influence any of the Company’s clients or customers from purchasing Company products or services or to solicit or influence or attempt to influence any client, customer or other person either directly or indirectly, to direct any purchase of products and/or services to any person, firm, corporation, institution or other entity in competition with the business of the Company.

Date: **Employee:**

(Print Employee’s Name)

(Signature)

1. This document contains annotations that should be deleted before adoption or execution. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This document is intended for use with employees and consultants in the U.S. and legal counsel in state of employment or engagement should be consulted. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that the Company owns the technology and intellectual property developed by its employees and consultants. Best practice is that this agreements be signed when employment or consulting begins as some states may question the enforceability of agreements entered into later for lack of contractual consideration. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)