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You agree that, if an agent (e.g., an attorney, an employee, etc.) uses the Forms Library or the Documents on your behalf, you are nonetheless bound as a principal by all terms and conditions herein.

REV 16 March 2017



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

**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 Consultants**

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.

**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

Consultant Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“Consultant”)

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

As a condition of becoming retained (or Consultant’s consulting relationship 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 Consultant’s consulting relationship with the Company and receipt of the compensation now and hereafter paid 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, Consultant hereby agrees 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 Consultant’s consulting relationship with the Company (the “Relationship”).
2. **Applicability to Past Activities.** The Company and Consultant acknowledge that Consultant 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 Consultant’s involvement with the Company, that would have been “Services” if performed during the term of this Agreement, for a period of time prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement (the “Prior Consulting Period”). Accordingly, if and to the extent that, during the Prior Consulting Period: (i) Consultant received access to any information from or on behalf of the Company that would have been Confidential Information (as defined below) if Consultant received access to such information during the term of this Agreement; or (ii) Consultant (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 Consultant’s 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. Consulting Agreement**.** Consultant has entered into an agreement with the Company on or about the date hereof to provide various services to the Company (the “Consulting Agreement”). The services rendered by Consultant under the Consulting Agreement are referred to herein as the “Services” and this Agreement is intended to supplement and form an integral part of the Consulting Agreement.
4. Confidential Information**.**
   1. **Protection of Information.** Consultant understands that during the Relationship, the Company intends to provide Consultant with certain information, including Confidential Information (as defined below), without which Consultant would not be able to perform Consultant’s duties to the Company. At all times during the term of the Relationship and thereafter, Consultant shall hold in strictest confidence, and not use, except for the benefit of the Company to the extent necessary to perform the Services, and not disclose to any person, firm, corporation or other entity, without written authorization from the Company in each instance, any Confidential Information that Consultant obtains from the Company or otherwise obtains, accesses or creates in connection with, or as a result of, the Services 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 Consultant or of others who were under confidentiality obligations as to the item or items involved. Consultant shall not make copies of such Confidential Information except as authorized by the Company or in the ordinary course of the provision of Services. Consultant may disclose Confidential Information only to Consultant’s personnel who have a need to know the Confidential Information for Consultant to perform its obligations under the Consulting Agreement and who are bound by a confidentiality agreement at least as restrictive as the terms of this Agreement.
   2. **Confidential Information.** Consultant understands 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 Consultant called or with whom Consultant 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 Consultant by the Company either directly or indirectly, whether in writing, electronically, orally, or by observation.
   3. **Third Party Information.** Consultant’s agreements in this Section 4 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, Consultant will not improperly use or disclose to the Company any confidential, proprietary or secret information of Consultant’s former clients or any other person, and Consultant 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.
5. Ownership of Inventions**.**
   1. **Inventions Retained and Licensed.** Consultant has 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 Consultant, and/or (ii) are owned exclusively by Consultant or jointly by Consultant with others or in which Consultant has 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, Consultant represents and warrants 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, Consultant hereby forever waives any and all rights or claims of ownership to such Inventions. Consultant understands that Consultant’s 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 Consultant’s ownership of such Inventions. Consultant further understands that Consultant must receive the formal approval of the Company before commencing Consultant’s Relationship with the Company.
   2. **Use or Incorporation of Inventions.** If in the course of the Relationship, Consultant uses or incorporates into any of the Company’s products, services, processes or machines any Invention not assigned to the Company pursuant to Section 5(d) of this Agreement in which Consultant has an interest, Consultant will promptly so inform the Company in writing. Whether or not Consultant gives such notice, Consultant hereby irrevocably grants 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.** Consultant understands 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. Consultant understands 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. Consultant understands that “Company Inventions” means any and all Inventions that Consultant or Consultant’s personnel may solely or jointly author, discover, develop, conceive, or reduce to practice in connection with, or as a result of, the Services performed for the Company or otherwise in connection with the Relationship, except as otherwise provided in Section 5(g) below.
   4. **Assignment of Company Inventions.** Consultant will promptly make full written disclosure to the Company, will hold in trust for the sole right and benefit of the Company, and hereby assigns to the Company, or its designee, all of Consultant’s 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. Consultant hereby waives and irrevocably quitclaims to the Company or its designee any and all claims, of any nature whatsoever, that Consultant now has or may hereafter have for infringement of any and all Company Inventions. 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, Consultant hereby waives and agrees not to enforce any and all Moral Rights, including, without limitation, any limitation on subsequent modification, to the extent permitted under applicable law. If Consultant has any rights to the Company Inventions, other than Moral Rights, that cannot be assigned to the Company, Consultant hereby unconditionally and irrevocably grants 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.** Consultant shall keep and maintain adequate and current written records of all Company Inventions made or conceived by Consultant or Consultant’s personnel (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. Consultant 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. Consultant shall deliver all such records (including any copies thereof) to the Companyat the time of termination of the Relationship as provided for in Section 6.
   6. **Intellectual Property Rights.** Consultant 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. Consultant’s obligation to execute or cause to be executed, when it is in Consultant’s 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. Consultant hereby irrevocably designates and appoints the Companyand its duly authorized officers and agents as Consultant’s agent and attorney-in-fact, to act for and in Consultant’s 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 Consultant’s subsequent incapacity.
   7. **Exception to Assignments.** Subject to the requirements of applicable state law, if any, Consultant understands 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. In order to assist in the determination of which inventions qualify for such exclusion, Consultant 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 Consultant or Consultant’s personnel in connection with, or as a result of, the Services performed for the Company during the period of the Relationship.
6. Company Property; Returning Company Documents**.** Consultant acknowledges that Consultant has 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 Consultant’s activity and any files or messages on or using any of those systems may be monitored or reviewed at any time without notice. Consultant further acknowledges 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, Consultant will deliver to the Company (and will not keep in Consultant’s 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 Consultant or Consultant’s personnel pursuant to the Relationship or otherwise belonging to the Company, its successors or assigns.
7. Notice to Third Parties**.** During the periods of time during which Consultant is restricted in taking certain actions by the terms of Section 8 of this Agreement (the “Restriction Period”), Consultant shall inform any entity or person with whom Consultant may seek to enter into a business relationship (whether as an owner, client or otherwise) of Consultant’s contractual obligations under this Agreement. Consultant acknowledges that the Company may, with or without prior notice to Consultant and whether during or after the term of the Relationship, notify third parties of Consultant’s agreements and obligations under this Agreement. Upon written request by the Company, Consultant will respond to the Company in writing regarding the status of Consultant’s engagement or proposed engagement with any party during the Restriction Period.
8. Solicitation of Employees, Consultants and Other Parties**.** As described above, Consultant acknowledges that the Company’s Confidential Information includes information relating to the Company’s employees, consultants, customers and others, and Consultant will not use or disclose such Confidential Information except as authorized by the Company in advance in writing. Consultant further agrees 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, Consultant 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 Consultant or for any other person or entity.
   2. **Other Parties.** During the term of the Relationship, Consultant 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. No Change to Duration of Relationship**.** Consultant understands and acknowledges that this Agreement does not alter, amend or expand upon any rights Consultant may have to continue in the consulting relationship with, or in the duration of Consultant’s consulting relationship with, the Company under any existing agreements between the Company and Consultant, including without limitation the Consulting Agreement, or under applicable law.
10. Representations and Covenants**.**
    1. **Facilitation of Agreement.** Consultant 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.** Consultant represents and warrants that Consultant’s performance of all the terms of this Agreement does not and will not breach any agreement Consultant has 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 Consultant in confidence or in trust prior to or during the Relationship. Consultant 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. Consultant 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. Consultant represents and warrants that Consultant has listed on Exhibit B 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 or any other person or entity, that may restrict Consultant’s ability to perform services for the Company or Consultant’s ability to recruit or engage customers or service providers on behalf of the Company, or otherwise relate to or restrict Consultant’s ability to perform Consultant’s duties for the Company or any obligation Consultant may have to the Company. Consultant shall not enter into any written or oral agreement that conflicts with the provisions of this Agreement.

Consultant further represents that Consultant does not presently perform or intend to perform, during the term of the Consulting Agreement, consulting or other services for companies whose businesses or proposed businesses in any way involve products or services that would be competitive with the Company’s products or services, or those products or services proposed or in development by the Company during the term of the Consulting Agreement (except for those companies, if any, listed on Exhibit B attached hereto). If, however, Consultant decides to do so, Consultant agrees that, in advance of agreeing to perform such services, Consultant will promptly notify the Company in writing, specifying the organization to which Consultant proposes to render services, and provide information sufficient to allow the Company to determine if such work would conflict with the interests of the Company.

1. 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.** Except as described in Section 3, this Agreement sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the Company and Consultant relating to its subject matter and merges all prior discussions between the parties to this Agreement. 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. Any subsequent change or changes in Consultant’s 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 Consultant’s 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 Consultant have attempted to limit Consultant’s right to use, maintain and disclose the Company’s Confidential Information, and to limit Consultant’s 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.** Consultant acknowledges that violation of this Agreement by Consultant may cause the Company irreparable harm, and therefore Consultant agrees 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.** Consultant acknowledges THAT, IN EXECUTING THIS AGREEMENT, Consultant Has HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL, AND Consultant Has read and understands 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:

**Consultant:**

(Print Name)

By:

Name:  
Title:

Address:  
   
   
Email:

Date:

EXHIBIT A

LIST OF PRIOR INVENTIONS  
AND ORIGINAL WORKS OF AUTHORSHIP  
EXCLUDED UNDER SECTION 5(a)

The following is a list of all Inventions that, as of the Effective Date: (A) have been created by Consultant or on Consultant’s behalf, and/or (B) are owned exclusively by Consultant or jointly by Consultant with others or in which Consultant has 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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Date | Identifying Number or Brief Description |
|  |  |  |

Except as indicated above on this Exhibit, Consultant has no inventions, improvements or original works to disclose pursuant to Section 5(a) of this Agreement.

\_\_\_ Additional sheets attached

Signature of Consultant by:   
Name:   
Title:

Date:

EXHIBIT B

**LIST OF COMPANIES  
EXCLUDED UNDER**

**SECTION 10(b)**

\_\_\_ No conflicts

\_\_\_ No agreements under Section 10(b)

\_\_\_ Additional sheets attached

Consultant agrees, signed by:   
Name:   
Title: Date:

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)