



Introducing... **CuroStudio**

Venture studio: “building several companies to create an ecosystem that supports a common mission”

The Access Issue

For years, the legal industry has been reporting that over 80% of Americans who need legal services are not getting them. Potential causes include financial constraints, ignorance that they have a legal issue, fear of the system, and not knowing where to turn for help. In fact, the access gap appears to be growing. The [2017 Legal Services Corporation’s report](#) shows the number has grown to 86%.

If 86% of the population’s legal needs are not being met, the legal market is failing. The industry collectively understands the problem and is spending massive amounts of human and financial resources to try and solve it. Many innovative and dedicated people are working on these issues every day. Yet, the problem persists.

The stereotypical assertion that the industry is working “to reduce the access gap” is no longer acceptable. We need to deconstruct the 80% number and examine what metrics should be in place to ensure the general public are getting access to legal services. We then need to create solutions that focus on utilizing those metrics to increase access.

In other words, we need a new approach.

Enter: CuroStudio

CuroStudio will be the premier legal technology venture studio — developing tools and services to address the access-to-justice gap and improve the delivery of legal services to lead the [“moonshot” goal of solving the access gap in the next 10 years.](#)

The Studio is a private, for-profit holding company, using industry expertise and software development resources to identify market opportunities and launch new products. The Studio will leverage internal resources, seek outside investment and create profitable business models to grow and scale projects.

The Studio will also provide support services for projects, including design and technology development, business strategy formation, sales and marketing, developing unique entry points into the legal market, and exploring funding opportunities.

Some ideas will be considered, tested and shelved. The Studio will not chase every shiny object in legal tech that just puts a new coat of paint on current practices. Instead, we will only pursue ventures that will make a significant impact on the future of legal services, consistent with the moonshot. There will be a focus on the centralization of data collection and analysis to better inform future products and services that consumers of legal services need.

The result of this approach will be an ecosystem of solutions making access to justice manageable.

The CuroStudio Ecosystem

Initial CuroStudio projects include:

The Global Legal Hackathon

We will host the Ohio venue for the [Global Legal Hackathon](#) in February 2018. The hackathon consists of dozens of venues across the globe focused on a weekend of innovating and solving problems for the future of law. Our local venue will include participants from law firms, tech companies, legal aid groups, and bar associations, among others, looking to modernize the delivery of legal services. CuroStudio intends to support ideas that arise from the hackathon that are in line with our mission to make sure innovative ideas continue to thrive after the event concludes.

A Legal Industry Cryptocurrency

We are creating a new legal coin. This token will be used within the CuroStudio ecosystem and will be implemented in the broader legal services market. We see real world uses and problems that a blockchain-based legal coin can solve, including helping low-income consumers afford lawyers and other paid legal services that are otherwise out of reach. This coin will also help solo and small firm lawyers more affordably and effectively utilize technology and back-office services to run more efficient, modern practices.

The Studio plans to launch an Initial Coin Offering during the first half of 2018. The ICO will serve as an introduction of the token into the legal market. The Studio will be

sharing a white paper before the launch that explains the justification for the legal coin in more detail, the problems it will solve, and how it can be purchased.

The money raised from the ICO will be used to fund Studio projects. A significant percentage of the ICO proceeds will be earmarked for access-to-justice solutions that will be free to consumers. This includes existing concepts, such as online legal checkups and further development of hatecrimehelp.com. The proceeds can also be used to collaborate with the ABA Center for Innovation on social entrepreneurship endeavors. There are also many grants coming out of Legal Services Corporation and state and local legal aid-related groups. ICO funds can be used to match grants on projects that are in line with the mission of the Studio.

Blockchain and the Business of Law

A core Studio project will focus on solutions to improve the business of law by leveraging blockchain technology. This is an emerging area that provides opportunities to modernize the delivery of legal services. We will be integrating blockchain technology into existing products, such as online legal checkups and bar association applications. We will be exploring and building solutions that change how the public and legal professionals interact with courts, how law firms access, store and share client information, and how bar associations can improve services, such as lawyer referral service, among other projects.

CuroStudio has joined the [Global Legal Blockchain Consortium](#) to help shape the standards and governance of blockchain in the legal profession.

The Modern Law Firm Model

A key part of solving the access gap is fixing the law firm model to provide avenues for the public to access more streamlined, cost-effective services and free up lawyers to have enough time and resources to offer more pro bono services. CuroStudio's partners have long focused on how solo lawyers and small law firms can run more efficient firms and better serve clients. A modern law firm model has not been perfected. We see a path to make that happen.

The Studio will break down the existing law model and build solutions resulting in a plug-and-play-type concept (think: franchising) where lawyers can get everything they need to run a practice. This includes intake, technology, best practices and procedures, coaching and training. The Studio will leverage and build upon existing leading tech solutions and bar association applications (such as ABA Blueprint) and will create new applications and services where gaps exist, such as those based on new and improving blockchain technology.

Outside Startups

The Studio is actively vetting outside, early-stage startups that may be a fit to join the ecosystem. Such startups are creating applications that leverage machine learning to help lawyers fill knowledge gaps on client representation and the use of artificial intelligence to perfect client intake, among others.

The CuroStudio Partners

In addition to CuroLegal, CuroStudio partners include:

[Lawyerist](#)

[Mile Two](#)

[Billie Tarascio](#)

This group will vet, cultivate and execute CuroStudio projects.