# Insurance for Startups:

#### What do you need, and when?

Disclaimer: The following information is being provided for educational purposes only. The information contained is not exhaustive, and is not meant to constitute legal or insurance advice, or create any relationship between the presenter and the viewer.

# Sean Ruppert, Esq.

- Licensed Insurance Agent & Attorney in PA
- Specializing in business insurance & law





# **Presentation Outline**

#### - Insurance Basics

- Core Concepts
- Types of Coverages

- Case Studies
  - Treatspace
  - eCare Diary
  - RistCall





- All activities come with some level of risk
- In everyday life, most risks are fairly easy to identify & assess
- In business, spotting the risks can be harder
  - Especially for startups with novel concepts



- How well you manage your risk can make a difference in the success of your business

 Insurance is not a solution for every risk your business will face, and is very rarely the only solution



#### Example:

- I am across a busy street from a Taco Bell. I want a Doritos Locos Taco, but to get it I have to walk through traffic. I risk being hit by a car if I do this.



#### - Acceptance: I walk across the street

- Pro: I probably get the taco
- Con: There is a chance I could be hit

#### - Avoidance: I don't walk across the street

- Pro: No chance of being hit by a car
- Con: No taco

#### - Reduction: I cross, but look both ways first

- Pro: Less likely that I get hit by a car
- Con: Still some chance that I get hit

- Transfer: I pay someone \$1 to cross for me
  - Pro: I get taco with no risk of being hit
  - Con: I had to pay an extra dollar

#### Insurance = Risk Transfer

- In doing business, you risk financial loss
  - Loss of your own property
  - Loss by others that you cause
- An insurance policy transfers that risk
  - Insurance company takes on specific financial risks for you that are spelled out in your policy

#### Most Risks Addressed with Two Step Approach



# - If I run a Taco Bell, there is a risk that someone could get sick from unsanitary food



# **Options**

- Acceptance: Let employees lick tacos
- Avoidance: Stop serving tacos
- Mitigation: Supervise employees
- Transfer: Let employees lick tacos, buy insurance policy to cover customer illness

#### **Best Answer**

- Supervise employees & buy insurance
  - Reduces likelihood of customer getting sick
  - Protects you in case it happens



#### - All insurance falls into two basic categories

- Property
- Liability

Exception: Worker's Comp



- Liability: Another person or business's loss that you are responsible for
  - Responsibility can be legal or contractual

- Property: Loss of asset that belongs to you
  - Can be tangible, real, or intellectual property
  - Also includes things like business income

#### **Commercial General Liability**

- Most common form of business coverage
- Three basic coverages under GL policy
  - Premises liability
  - Products liability
  - Personal & Advertising liability
- Will pay for legal defense as well as any judgment or settlement up to limit.

#### **Commercial Property**

- Buildings, equipment, stock, income, etc...
- Property insured at Replacement Cost or Actual Cash Value
- Cannot insure something for more than it is worth or would cost to replace
- Only certain causes of loss are covered

#### **Commercial Auto**

- Coverage for driving risks
- Typically only necessary for businesses that require driving during work
- Can get coverage for vehicles owned by company, as well as vehicles owned by employees while being used for work

#### **Professional Liability / Errors & Omissions**

- Liability for services/advice you provide as a professional
  - i.e. Malpractice liability for doctors or lawyers.
  - Available for a variety of industries from beauticians to engineers
  - Can cover contractual injury from failure to perform in certain circumstances

#### **Other Types of Liability Insurance**

- Directors & Officers Liability
  - Coverage for corporate officers for lawsuits brought for alleged wrongful acts related to their position
  - Can be liable to shareholders or to outside interests
- Cyber Liability
  - Liability for theft of customers' personal information
  - Liability for publishing electronic media

# **Types of Coverage**

#### Worker's Compensation

- No fault coverage for injuries to employees
  Required for all W-2 employees
  - Not for Owners, Partners, Directors & Officers, and Independent Contractors
  - Can be tricky to determine if employee or contractor
- State will fine you for not having coverage if you have employees

#### Wrap Up

- Liability: Loss suffered by others you cause
  - Bodily injury, property damage, financial loss
  - Insurance can cover depending on circumstances
- Property: Loss suffered by you
  - Property damage, financial loss
  - Insurance can cover depending on what the property is and what causes the loss





#### - Cloud based management for doctors

- Practice Management
  - Secure communication for referrals to other docs
  - Secure communication w/patients
  - HIPAA compliance
- Practice Visibility
  - SEO
  - Web Development



# **Case Study:**



- Roots in Project Olympus
- C-Corporation, Delaware
- Founders & some W2 employees w/equity
- Outside investment
  - Angel Investment
  - Institutional investment
- Rent office space in East Liberty
- Advertise on a website & social media





- GL Risk: Premises
  - Minor concern for this business, but does exist
  - Almost all landlords will require you to have GL

#### - GL Risk: Advertising

- Website advertises services
- Fairly incidental to operations
- Could be covered by GL, but probably excluded

# **Cast Study:**



#### - Property Risk: Business Property

- Computers, etc...
- Fairly minimal exposure in this situation
- Minimal if any coverage required
- Auto Risk: None
  - No one doing any extensive driving in connection with work
  - No owned autos
- Workers Comp: Needed for employees



#### **Major Exposures**

- Transmitting Personal Data:
  - Facilitating the transfer of privileged medical information from Doctor to Doctor, and from Doctor to Patient
  - Governed by HIPAA
  - Data Breach excluded in GL policy
- Solution: Data Breach Coverage





#### **Major Exposures**

- Advice and Service of Doctors
  - Advising on HIPAA compliance
    - Can be liable if incorrect about rules
  - Tech service
    - Can be liable for doctor's loss if you fail to deliver proper service due to a professional error
- Solution: Professional Liability Coverage



# Major Exposures

- Outside Investors
  - Corporate officers are liable for managerial de that have adverse financial consequences.
  - Errors can be based on law or corporate bylaws
- Solution: D&O Coverage
  - Protects officers for claims against them personally
  - Protects company as a whole from securities issues



# Wrap Up

- GL: Some exposure, need insurance

**Case Study:** 

- Property: Use discretion on insurance
- Auto: Minimal risk, insurance not needed
- Data Breach: Main risk, need insurance
- Prof. Liability: Main risk, need insurance
- D&O Liability: Main risk, need insurance
- Work Comp: Required for Employees



- Web service providing support tools for people caring for family members with chronic illnesses, like Parkinson's or MS
  - Publishes articles relating to various issues related for caregiving, from financial to health
  - Provides a message board for caregivers to communicate with one another
  - Users create a diary about patient's condition that can be accessed by family members and doctors



- Rents office space in East Liberty
- S-Corp structure
  - Closely held by owners
- Owners & independent contractors working



- Publishes and maintains website



#### - GL Risk: Premises

- Minor concern for this business, but does exist
- Almost all landlords will require you to have GL
- GL Risk: Personal & Advertising
  - Major Exposure for this business
  - Web publishing is a main function of this business
  - Carries risk of libel, defamation, and infringement on the intellectual property of others
  - Excluded under GL policy



### - Property Risk: Business Property

- Some computers and other office equipment
- Auto Risk: None
  - No owned autos
  - Little driving on company time
- Worker's Compensation: None
  - Not required for independent contractors
- D&O Risk: Closely held company, not required



### **Major Exposures**

- Publishing Articles
  - Risk of defamation against person or products
  - Risk of liability if article gives bad advice
- Hosting message board
  - Risk of being brought in on a lawsuit if someone else posts defamatory or libelous material
- Solution: Cyber Media Liability Coverage



### **Major Exposures**

- Accepting and keeping private data
  - Can be held liable if private info were exposed
  - HIPAA does not apply, but can be liable anyway if information infringes on a person's right to privacy and/or causes embarrassment.
- Solution: Data Breach Coverage



## Wrap Up

- **GL:** Some premises exposure, major exposure excluded, need insurance for both
- **Property**: Use discretion on insurance.
- Auto: Minimal risk, insurance not needed
- **D&O:** Minimal risk, insurance not needed
- Electronic Media: Main risk, need coverage
- Data Breach: Main risk, need insurance



- Markets wristwatch like device for patients to call nurses with in hospitals
- Product alerts nurses of patient need, continues alert until a nurse picks up
- Hospitals lease equipment from ristcall, service provided by ristcall



- Currently formed as an LLC
  - Will convert to C-Corp when ready to raise capital
- No rented office space
- No W-2 employees
- Applying for Patent
- Purchasing existing product and repurposing





- GL Risk: Premises
  - Company does not have a space rented yet, no exposure until this occurs
- GL Risk: Advertising
  - Very minor exposure at this point.
- Auto Risk: Minimal
- Worker's Comp: No employees, no risk
- D&O: Not needed until conversion to C-Corp and significant outside investment occurs





#### - Products Liability

- Injury caused by malfunction of the device
- Significant risk in hospital setting
- Solution: GL or stand alone product liability policy



## **Major Exposures**

- Physical Property
  - Devices themselves are owned by company
  - Business income dependant on devices functioning
  - Solution: Property coverage for devices, BI coverage
- Intellectual Property
  - Patent infringement on your idea
  - Someone else saying you infringed on their idea
  - Solution: IP Insurance



# Wrap Up

- GL: Products are main risk. Need coverage when product testing w/patients begins
- **Property**: Significant risk. Need coverage for device when a significant number of them are obtained by company. Need income coverage when device goes into use.



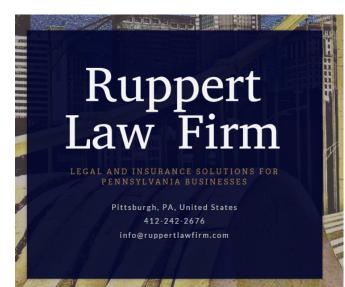
- Auto: No risk yet. Not likely to become significant
- D&O: Should consider after transition to C-Corp when outside investment comes in
- Work Comp: When employees are hired
- IP Policy: Consider if significant production occurs prior to patent issue.

## Take Aways

- Every business presents certain risks
- Some risks are easy to see, others are not
- Insurance is one tool of many to address risk
- Make sure your business's policy covers the the main risk that your business faces

## **Thank you!**

CENTURY INSURANCE CONSULTANTS, LTD. CENTURY FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS



Sean Ruppert, Esq. 412-373-5454 x117 sruppert@centuryinsure.com <u>www.centuryinsure.com</u>