



## Entrepreneurship Clinic Selected Websites

Compiled by Brent Bernau, Reference Librarian  
January 2010

### City of San Diego:

Better Business Bureau / San Diego & Imperial Counties / <http://sandiego.bbb.org/>

Useful for established businesses which may seek BBB accreditation and/or customer dispute resolution.

Business page / City of San Diego / <http://www.sandiego.gov/directories/business.shtml>

See, *10 Key Steps to Starting a Business (For Businesses within San Diego City Limits)*

<http://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/pdf/10keysteps.pdf>

*Business Directory* categories include:

*Business Assistance*, which links include:

- Business Incentive Zone Maps
- Business Improvement Districts
- Development Services (Zoning information, Development Code & Local Coastal Program, etc.)
- Economic Development Programs
- Enterprise Zones
- Foreign Trade Zone
- New Business Information
- Redevelopment Agency
- Storefront Improvement Program
- Unified Certification Program (Equal Opportunity Contracting, Contract Compliance, Labor Compliance, etc.)

*Licenses, Permits & Taxes*, which links include:

- Business Tax Certificate
- Construction Permits (Industry, Small Business, Homeowners)
- Development Process: Step-by-Step

San Diego Municipal Code / Office of the City Clerk /

- <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/legisdocs/muni.shtml> ; Print: LRC Reserve KFX 2343 .A35 1990 (looseleaf)

Municipal Codes of other California cities, see, e.g.,

- <http://igs.berkeley.edu/library/calcodes.html#Sa> / UC-Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies
- [http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca01\\_codes/municode.html](http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca01_codes/municode.html) / FindLaw, Legal Professionals

SCORE / "Counselors to America's Small Business" / San Diego Chapter <https://www.score-sandiego.org/index.asp>

See *General* Section, below, for description of this organization.

Small Business Administration, San Diego District Office / <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ca/sandiego/index.html>

Includes link to *San Diego Small Business Resource Guide: Helping Small Businesses Start, Grow & Succeed*

### County of San Diego:

Business Resources / County of San Diego / <http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/cs/brindex.html>

- Business Licenses (for businesses located in incorporated cities in San Diego County)
- Fictitious Business Names filing information
- Permits
- Small Business Development
- *Other Resources* include many helpful links, including for businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, Native Americans.
- Links to websites of other San Diego County cities:  
[http://sdpublic.sdcountry.ca.gov/portal/page?\\_pageid=93,284253&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://sdpublic.sdcountry.ca.gov/portal/page?_pageid=93,284253&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances / [http://www.amlegal.com/sandiego\\_county\\_ca/](http://www.amlegal.com/sandiego_county_ca/)

Print: LRC Reserve KFC 1199 .S26 A35 1993 (looseleaf)

## **State of California**

Business Portal / California Secretary of State / <http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/business/>

- Forms, Samples & Fees for Business Entities, including Corporations; LLCs; and Limited, General & Limited Liability Partnerships
  - Types of forms included:
    - Formation/Qualification Documents
    - Amendment Documents
    - Initial, Annual or Biennial Statements
    - Termination Documents
    - Merger Documents
    - Conversion Documents
    - Reservation of business entity name
    - Records Requests
  - Also links to California codes & regulations, related state & federal agencies, tax information
  - *Business Resources* provides links to other agencies a business entity may need to contact to ensure proper compliance
  - *Starting a Business* links to a step-by-step guide for starting a business in California

Business Permits Made Simple / CalGOLD / <http://www.calgold.ca.gov>

- *Search by business type* links to detailed information on business permit, license & registration requirements at all levels of government.
- *Help/FAQ* link includes *Commonly Requested Information Contacts* (PDF), which has useful links

Businesses tab / California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) / <http://www.ftb.ca.gov/businesses/index.shtml>

- Business Structures: Brief explanations of each of eight common structures
- Filing Requirements & Assistance
- Paying Tax or a Bill
- Tax Forms
- Starting, Running or Closing Your Business

California Business Portal / California Economic Development Partnership / <http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/>

Tabs provide a portal to a number of resources for starting, growing, financing, expanding or relocating a business in California.

California Cities and Counties

- Websites <http://www.business.gov/states/california/local/>
- Municipal & County Codes & Ordinances
  - [http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca01\\_codes/municode.html](http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca01_codes/municode.html) FindLaw for Legal Professionals
  - <http://igs.berkeley.edu/library/calcodes.html#E> / UC-Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies

California Code of Regulations / California Office of Administrative Law

<http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=CCR-1000&Action=Welcome> ; Print: LRC California KFC 35 1990 .A22 (looseleaf)

Employer Registration (State Employment Tax) / California Employment Development Dept. (EDD) / <http://www.edd.ca.gov/>

- *Payroll Taxes* tab includes links to Employer Registration, Rates & Withholding, File & Pay Taxes, Reporting Requirements, etc.
- *Quick Links: Required EDD Notices & Pamphlets* [http://www.edd.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Taxes/Required\\_Notices\\_and\\_Pamphlets.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Taxes/Required_Notices_and_Pamphlets.htm)
  - *See Tax Service Center*, below, for federal & state posting requirements.

Small Business Development Centers (California) / [http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/sbdc/sbdclocator/SBDC\\_LOCATOR\\_MAP\\_CAL.html](http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/sbdc/sbdclocator/SBDC_LOCATOR_MAP_CAL.html)

- Provides free start-up advice, training and counseling services to entrepreneurs and small business throughout the state. Supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- *Small Business Planner* tab has many useful links

State Agencies Directory (California) / <http://ca.gov/About/Government/agencyindex.html#agency>

- Links to the homepages of every state agency/board
- *Business* tab links to several portals

State Bar of California, Business Law Section / [http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar\\_sections\\_generic.jsp?cid=10701&id=7341](http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_sections_generic.jsp?cid=10701&id=7341)

Can search site for articles, publications, links and Section Committees.

State Board of Equalization (California) / <http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/reg.htm> /

Registration information for “seller’s permit”, aka “resale permit”. (Must register in person.)

- Sales & Use Tax
- Special Taxes & Fees: Environmental Fees, Excise Taxes (e.g., alcohol/cigarette sales), Fuel Taxes

*Striking Gold in California: What You Need to Know About Taxes & Your Small Business* (PDF) / <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub170.pdf>

- Provides overview of all state & federal taxes

Tax Service Center (California) / <http://www.taxes.ca.gov/index.shtml>

- Tabs for:
  - Income Tax
  - Payroll Tax
  - Sales & Use Tax
  - Other Taxes & Fees
- Employer Poster Requirements, State & Federal / [http://www.taxes.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Tax/postingreqbus.shtml](http://www.taxes.ca.gov/Payroll_Tax/postingreqbus.shtml)

## **General (Not Specific to California):**

ABA Section of Business Law / <http://www.abanet.org/buslaw> / Site can be searched to retrieve articles and links.

*ADA Guide for Small Businesses* (Americans with Disabilities Act) (PDF) / U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Entrepreneurial Development & the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Rights Division / <http://www.ada.gov/smbusgd.pdf> (1999)

- See also, SBA's Guide for Small Businesses and Other ADA Information / <http://www.sba.gov/ada/>
- See Also, ADA Business Connection / U.S. Dept. of Justice / <http://www.ada.gov/business.htm>

Business.Gov / <http://www.business.gov/> *Good starting point*

- Official business site of the U.S. government which helps businesses comply with laws and regulations for all levels of government.
- Provides searching and links to Federal, State & Local Sites categorized as follows:
  - Start a Business: Includes resources for Home-Based Business, Self-Employment, Disabled People, Non Profit Organizations, and Businesses Owned by Veterans, Women or Minorities
  - Register, Licenses & Permits (searchable by zip code)
  - Finance & Taxes
  - Expand Your Business
  - Stay Compliant with Laws
  - State & Local

Business Law Lounge / ,Lectric Law Library / <http://www.lectlaw.com/bus.html> The Lounge is divided into sections:

- "Money Matters: Capital, Credit, Securities, Taxes & the like"
- "Business Organizations: Corporations, Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies, etc."
- "Laws, Rules & Regulations" (including a *Small Business Handbook*)
- "Employer/Employment Issues"
- "General Business Materials: Contracts, Cases, Scams, News & Other Assorted Treats"

Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) / U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=31b3ab0a43b5d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD> (or obtain through Business.Gov link, above, or IRS Small Business site, below)

FindLaw for Small Business / <http://smallbusiness.findlaw.com/> Small Business Topics include:

- Starting a Business
- Incorporation & Legal Structures
- Business Laws & Regulations
- Business Finances & Taxes
- Business Forms & Contracts
- Business Operations
- Employment Law
- Immigration Law for Employers
- Workers' Compensation for Employers
- Closing a Business

Federal Employer Identification (EIN) / U.S. Dept. of Treasury / (Functions as the business' SSN) / <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fss4.pdf>

- One of the first things a business needs, even if it has no employees. (Yes, it's a misnomer.)

Small Business & Self-Employed One-Stop Resource / IRS, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury / <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html>

*Good starting point*

More than a repository of federal tax information for business, this resource has a wealth of information and links for all levels of government, all the way down to the local level. It might really live up to its billing as a "One-Stop Resource." There are a variety of paths to the information you will need, but a good one is *A-Z Index for Business*. This, for example, takes you to:

- *Business Types* provides brief explanations of each of the business entities along with links to IRS publications & required forms.
- *By Subject*, includes *Starting a Business* and *EINs* (Employer Identification Number, which functions as the business' SSN).
- *A-Z Business Topics*,
  - Clicking *C*, then *California*, provides links to *Permits & Licenses*, various state websites (such as Secretary of State), and individual City and County web sites.
  - *E* takes you to *Employment Forms*, *Employer ID Numbers (EIN/SS-4)*, etc.
  - *N* takes you to *Non-Profits*, etc.
  - *H* takes you to *Home Office Deduction*, for example, which provides the rules for home-based businesses.

SCORE / "Counselors to America's Small Business" / <http://www.score.org/>

A resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, this non-profit organization provides free and confidential small business advice for entrepreneurs since 1964 by volunteers who are working or retired business owners, executives or corporate leaders who share what they learned in business. Home page provides useful links and guides. San Diego Chapter: <https://www.score-sandiego.org/index.asp>

Small Business Administration (SBA) / <http://www.sba.gov/> *Small Business Planner* tab provides links for topics such as:

*Write a Business Plan*

*Choose a Structure*: Various business entities in Advantages/Disadvantages format.

*Get Licenses & Permits*: Federal & state requirements

*Buy a Business*: Includes Determining Value; Sales Agreement; Closing Checklist

Taxation (Both Federal & State)

*Striking Gold in California: What You Need to Know About Taxes & Your Small Business* (PDF) / <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub170.pdf>