



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AND DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE  
PARTNER TO SUPPORT COVID-19 IMPACTED SMALL BUSINESSES**

*The partnership will focus on providing legal and business support to entrepreneurs of color  
in communities hardest hit by the pandemic.*

**NEWARK, NJ, October 27, 2020** — The Institute For Entrepreneurial Leadership (IFEL) announced today that Davis Wright Tremaine LLP will join the Small Businesses Need Us initiative as a Corporate Volunteer Partner. The Small Businesses Need Us initiative was launched by IFEL in May 2020 to create a volunteer force of business professionals and experts to help small businesses recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ready to render hands-on, capacity-building assistance, the volunteers are matched with businesses based on a needs assessment and organized into cross-functional teams. The ultimate goals are the survival and success of the businesses. Black and Latinx entrepreneurs are especially encouraged to apply. All work is done remotely via phone and video conferencing.

“We are excited to have Davis Wright Tremaine join us in this fight to save small businesses,” says IFEL CEO Jill Johnson. “This partnership will move the mission forward and provide critical resources where they are needed the most. The firm’s expertise in the restaurant industry is much needed to address the challenges facing our small community-based restaurants. ”

According to information provided by the National Restaurant Association, a business and advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 380,000 restaurant locations across the country, the restaurant industry expects to suffer a loss of up to 240 billion dollars by the end of 2020. Additionally, 61% of operators surveyed say that existing federal relief is not sufficient enough to prevent workforce reductions. The Independent Restaurant Coalition, [www.saverestaurants.com](http://www.saverestaurants.com), noted that 56% of restaurants have at least 50% in new debt as a result of COVID-19.

[Insert DWT quote]



Davis Wright Tremaine joins existing Small Businesses Need Us Corporate Volunteer Partners including SCORE NJ, KPMG, Porzio Bromberg & Newman, P.C., Gibbons P.C. and Ellevate. To learn more or to apply, visit [SmallBusinessesNeedUs.org](https://SmallBusinessesNeedUs.org) #SBNU

#### **ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP**

Founded in 2002, the [Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership](https://www.weareifel.org) (IFEL) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that supports economic development through entrepreneurship. We are experts in creating and implementing small business programming in support of larger economic development objectives. Our mission is to eradicate the systemic barriers that prevent entrepreneurs of color from being able to access the knowledge, networks, and capital required for business success. Visit us at <https://www.weareifel.org>

#### **ABOUT DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP**

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, founded in 1908, is headquartered in Seattle, Washington with seven additional locations in major cities. The firm has extensive legal experience across a broad range of industries including Communications; Banking & Financial Services; Energy; Food & Beverage; Foundations & Non-Profit Organizations; Healthcare; Media & Entertainment and Restaurants. Areas of practice include brand protection & advertising; corporate & business transactions; employment, benefits & immigration; environmental litigation & real estate; technology, and privacy & security. As a champion of diversity, inclusion, & women's empowerment and leadership through success in business, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP created Project W. The mission of Project W is to help women-owned businesses and female founders build great companies through mentoring programs and a national network of entrepreneurs, investors, business executives and collaborative partnerships. In June 2020, Davis Wright Tremaine increased diversity efforts by launching 1:1 With Black Founders Initiative, a program designed to increase access to capital for Black-owned enterprises. Learn more about Davis Wright Tremaine at [www.dwt.com/expertise](https://www.dwt.com/expertise).

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