

# HILL WARD HENDERSON SPONSORS THE FIRSTWAVE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Firm News

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Hill Ward Henderson, a full-service law firm, has recently announced its partnership with Tampa Bay WaVE through the firm's sponsorship of the FirstWaVE Accelerator Program, a proprietary curriculum for tech start-ups. The Program's ultimate mission is for companies to exit on a fast upward trajectory toward their specific growth objectives with the confidence, connections, and customers to be a world-class company.

In the First WaVE Accelerator Program companies move through the Build and Launch Program onto the Grow Alumni Program where they will mentor the earlier stage companies. The FirstWaVE Accelerator Program currently has 22 companies that have raised \$8M through the Program bringing the total to just over \$12M in outside capital.

Throughout the Program, Hill Ward Henderson's attorneys will be speaking to the start-up companies through "Legal Series," a legal workshop that provides entrepreneurs with the know-how and confidence to move forward in their ventures. "We are pleased to have Hill Ward Henderson speak at the Legal Series. They truly understand the needs of early-stage entrepreneurs," says Tampa Bay WaVE president, Linda Olson.

"Growing a successful company takes time, energy, dedication and the right tools," said Dave Felman Shareholder and Corporate Practice Group Leader. "Our firm is pleased to help the entrepreneurs and businesses create and maintain a solid legal foundation throughout their formation and growth."

"We're looking forward to partnering with Hill Ward Henderson to

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launch our Start-up Legal Series program for 2015," says Jake Filloramo, FirstWaVE Accelerator Program Manager. "In order to increase the odds of success for our technology companies, entrepreneurs need to be educated on how to create a solid legal foundation, deal with equity sharing, and structure appropriately for raising capital."

### **About Tampa Bay WaVE:**

Tampa Bay WaVE is a non-profit providing entrepreneurs and innovators with facilitated access to the resources, organizations, expertise and capital they need to create technology-based companies that will be the foundation for economic growth in the Tampa Bay region. With a grant from U.S. Commerce Department and support from The University of South Florida and keystone corporate sponsors including Tribridge, Foley & Lardner LLP, In-Rel Properties, Sykes Enterprises, CliftonLarsonAllen, AVI-SPL, Florida Blue, Bright House Networks, and Hillsborough County, Tampa Bay WaVE is poised to jumpstart innovation and economic growth. For more information, visit [www.tampabaywave.org](http://www.tampabaywave.org).