For most startups and early stage technology companies, raising investment capital is the first and most daunting task. Lack of adequate capitalization puts a great deal of strain on what is already the difficult task of launching a new product or service into the marketplace and building an operational business.

We are here to help. At our May event the MIT Enterprise Forum Great Lakes welcomes Don Baker, a co-founder of Safford & Baker, a law firm specializing in early stage technology companies, and has founded Science Commercialization Ventures, through which he makes early stage investments in technologies emerging from university and federal laboratories. Don will present a tool entitled a Capital Fundraising Plan through which companies may assess and plan their milestones, fundraising rounds, valuation and equity stock dilution along the path to growth.

Donald H. Baker Jr. is a founding member of Safford & Baker. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Don has been practicing law in North Carolina and Michigan since 1983 and 1987 respectively. Don received his undergrad degree from the University of North Carolina and his law degree from the University of Michigan. Don practices in the areas of general business law, commercial transactions, and taxation, with a focus on venture capital/capital formation, publishing, copyright, and computer law. Don has been an Adjunct Professor of Taxation at Walsh College in Troy, Michigan since 1989. Don and his partners have a number of IP based clients that leverage investor partnerships to support accelerated growth. Don has made several early stage investments and has effective entrepreneur instincts to help his portfolio teams and his clients. Don has developed Capital Fund Raise Plan to help entrepreneurs better define growth funding needs from operational perspective and to more clearly define the risk and reward to potential investors.