Once an offer has been accepted on a corporate deal, an exhaustive due diligence process begins. Depending on the type and scope of the transaction, attorneys will review documents to help verify the health of the target company, identify any risks, and make sound recommendations on the deal at hand. Here, we break down the category of information and common documents searched in each.

**Company/Organizational**
- To understand how a company is structured.
- Combined balance sheets.
- Company by-laws and amendments.
- Certificates of Good Standing.
- Patent registration.
- Trademark registration.
- Any awards.
- Shareholders/percentages owned.
- effected by a change in control.
- Annual reports.

**Legal**
- To understand current and future obligations based on active contracts or agreements.
- A bill of employment and independent contractors.
- Employee handbook, policies, and terms of employment.
- All services and products.
- Past and predicted growth rates.
- Services.

**Financial**
- To understand the company’s current financial state and future projections.
- Income statement.
- Balance sheets.
- Tax returns.
- Legal compliance.
- Accounts payable and receivable.
- Shareholders (percentage owned).
- Accounts receivable.
- Bank statements.
- Tax liens.
- Bankruptcy.
- Credit card statements.
- Legal compliance.
- Account statements.
- Bankruptcy.
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