

Michael Hostetler

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Michael Hostetler has spent 25 years at the crossroads of patent law and life sciences, building a practice focused on the companies most dependent on intellectual property to survive. A partner at Wilson Sonsini, he has counseled hundreds of growth enterprises in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, working with both venture-backed startups and public companies navigating the long road from laboratory to market.

"I have designed and implemented IP strategy for 13 FDA-approved drugs and 60 active clinical trials," he said. "Even though I'm not creating these products, I help ensure these

innovative companies have the resources they need to turn their breakthroughs into realities."

The career moment he points to as formative is his work on the Pharmacyclics acquisition by AbbVie -- a deal that ultimately exceeded \$20 billion. He was a fifth-year associate when he began advising Pharmacyclics, and the company placed substantial trust in him as it brought its cancer drug Imbruvica to market. "There was so much at stake as the company brought its drug Imbruvica to market, and I learned the importance of client communications, resolving challenges at the patent office quickly and thinking on my feet during diligence processes," he said.

His recent work reflects the scale and range of the sector. He represented General Atlantic on IP matters related to the formation of Verdiva Bio Limited and Verdiva's \$410 million Series A financing. "The financing is believed to be the largest Series A raised by a UK-based biotech," he said. Verdiva is building a portfolio of oral and injectable treatments for obesity and cardiometabolic disorders.

Hostetler also advised precision oncology startup Lila Biologics on patent matters tied to its global licensing and multi-target collaboration with Eli Lilly, targeting solid tumors through radioligand therapies. In November 2025, he counseled Solve Therapeutics on patent matters connected to its \$120 million financing round. "Solve is developing antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) for solid tumor malignancies, and this round of funding will accelerate the development of its clinical pipeline and proprietary CloakLink™ linker platform," he said.

Hostetler credits Wilson Sonsini managing partner Doug Clark as his primary mentor, noting that Clark shaped his approach to leadership and to practicing with fairness and compassion toward clients.

The landscape he navigates continues to shift. "The world of biotech innovation is moving faster than ever, with the rise of the Chinese biotech industry and the impact of artificial intelligence in drug discovery," he said. "It has become even more important than ever before to have in place a sound patent strategy and to promptly execute that strategy."

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