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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 2012®

TOP 25 PORTFOLIO MANAGERS



Vern Norviel
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich &
Rosati PC
Palo Alto

Norviel figures he just might be the first attorney in history to have undergone a complete genome sequencing. “Since I’m in the industry, I thought that it would be good to be a participant,” Norviel said.

Wasn’t he worried about what would turn up?

“There are very few things for which no action can be taken to reduce risk,” he said.

So far, he’s found out that he has an elevated risk of macular degeneration.

“I can take vitamin C or E and help delay or eliminate the onset,” he said.

DNA sequencing, Norviel said, “is changing the game of research and diagnostics.”

He represents Ion Torrent Systems in patent matters related to next-generation DNA sequencing; Tokai Pharmaceuticals in patent matters related to prostate cancer treatments; and Pacific Biosciences, a developer of single-molecule technology for biological analysis, in patent matters related to its \$200 million initial public offering. Other representations include QuantaLife in its patent and contract matters relating to its formation and sale to BioRad Inc. for more than \$200 million.

Norviel also represented Intellikine, a venture-backed biotech company focused on developing small-molecule drugs, in a collaborative agreement with Infinity Pharmaceuticals valued at up to \$488 million.

“Healthcare investments from the venture folks were up in all of our major markets,” Norviel said.

“Since it takes a long time to get a drug or diagnostic to market, they’ve always had a much longer time horizon. When times are rough, they’re still looking farther out.”

Norviel said his practice focuses on developments that “really matter.”

“This is the greatest job in the world,” he added, “because this is totally changing the world.”

— Pat Broderick