

WILSON SONSINI

Laurie K. McNamara

PARTNER

Patents and
Innovations
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FOCUS AREAS

Intellectual Property
Life Sciences
Patents and Innovations

EXPERIENCE

Dr. Laurie McNamara is a partner in the San Diego and San Francisco offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she focuses her practice on matters related to intellectual property and patent prosecution strategy for early-stage through clinical-stage therapeutics companies. She counsels clients on matters related to global patent portfolio development and strategy, non-infringement, patentability, and freedom-to-operate studies. She advises company clients in connection with major financial transactions such as collaboration agreements, venture financings, merger & acquisitions, and public offerings. In addition to company-side representation, Laurie works with top venture capital firms related to IP diligence of target companies for financings. Laurie has represented venBio, OrbiMed, Logos Capital, Venrock, Foresight Capital, Novo Holdings, Vida Ventures, Avalon BioVentures, Two Bear Capital, and Samsara BioCapital in connection with financings of target companies developing biologics therapeutic programs.

Prior to her legal career, Laurie obtained her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in biochemistry where she studied Ca²⁺/calmodulin-regulated protein kinases and their role as drug discovery targets for neurodegenerative diseases. In her multi-disciplinary dissertation lab at Northwestern, she obtained training in pharmacology, x-ray crystallography, small molecule inhibitor design, enzymology, assay development and design, and protein purification. Prior to graduate school, Laurie worked at Merck Research Labs in Rahway, New Jersey, in the departments of basic chemistry and drug metabolism. Because of her core technical expertise in protein biochemistry and drug discovery, Laurie focuses her patent practice on therapeutics companies advancing biologics assets through drug development.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., California Western School of Law, 2013
Magna Cum Laude; Recipient, Trustees Scholarship; Recipient, Academic Excellence Award (Highest Score) in Property I, Criminal Law, Torts II, Evidence, Remedies, Bioethics Seminar, and Biotechnology Seminar
- Ph.D., Biochemistry, Northwestern University, 2009
- B.S., Chemistry, Hope College, 2003
Minor in Biology, Cum Laude

Admissions

- State Bar of California
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

MATTERS

Leading Matters

Select Company-Side Representation:

- Primary patent counsel to Candid Therapeutics since founding of company. Represented company in various matters, including:
 - Three-way merger and \$370 million capital raise
 - Agreement with WuXi Biologics for rights to CND319, a trispecific T-cell engager
 - \$2 billion acquisition by UCB
- Primary patent counsel to Janux Therapeutics (JANX) since founding of company. Designed and implemented a global patent strategy in connection with Janux's TRACTr and TRACIr pipeline and in support of clinical programs. Shepherded company through major IP diligence milestones, including:
 - Collaboration and exclusive license agreement with Bristol Myers Squibb
 - \$1 billion deal with Merck
 - \$56 million Series A
 - \$125 million Series B
 - \$194 million initial public offering
 - \$296.5 million underwritten public offering
- Primary patent counsel to Link Cell Therapies since founding of company. Represented company in various matters, including:
 - \$60 million Series A
 - Strategic collaboration with Johnson & Johnson
- Oak Hill Bio in support of its rugonersen programs and the following matters:
 - Exclusive license agreement with Roche
 - \$32.5 million Series A
- Predicta Biosciences in connection with its IP strategy, partnering, and venture capital financing.
- Minerva Biotechnologies in connection with its IP strategy in support of its clinical CAR T program and antibody-based therapeutics.
- Empirico in connection with its IP strategy and venture capital financings in support of its siRNA therapeutics.
- Virtuoso Therapeutics in connection with its IP strategy and venture financings in support of its clinical bispecific antibody programs.
- Allievex Corporation in connection with its IP strategy in support of its clinical enzyme replacement therapy program for treatment of Sanfilippo syndrome type B.
- Unity Biotechnology in connection with its IP strategy in support of its clinical programs and venture capital financings and initial public offering.

Select Investor-Side Representation:

- Frazier Life Sciences on IP matters related to Immutrin's \$87 million Series A.
- Vida Ventures on IP matters related to Third Arc Bio's \$165 million Series A.
- Foresite Capital on IP matters related to CG Oncology's \$105 million financing.
- Venrock on IP matters related to Upstream Bio's \$200 million Series B.
- Samsara BioCapital on IP matters related to Link Cell Therapies financing.
- Two Bear Capital on IP matters related to Novoron Bioscience financing.
- Novo Holdings on IP matters related to investments in Allievex and Nuvig Therapeutics.

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- "Structure and Activity Studies of Human Death Associated Protein Kinase (DAPK): Nucleotide Interactions," Doctoral Dissertation, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 2009
- Co-author with J.S. Brunzelle, D.M. Watterson, J.P. Schavocky, and V. Grum-Tokars, "Site-Directed Mutagenesis of the Glycine-Rich Loop of Death Associated Protein Kinase (DAPK) Identifies It as a Key Structure for Catalytic Activity," 1813(5) *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta - Molecular Cell Research* 1065-1073, 2010
- Co-author with D.M. Watterson and J.S. Brunzelle, "Structural Insight into Nucleotide Recognition of Human Death Associated Protein Kinase," *Acta Crystallographica Section D Biological Crystallography* D65:241-248, 2009
- Co-author with M. Zimmerman, C. Antmanene, Q. Xu, L. Fouillen, A. Van Dorselaer, D. Bonnet, C. Marsol, M. Hibert, S. Sanglier-Cianferani, C. Pigault, D.M. Watterson, J. Haiech, and M.C. Kilhoffer,

"Homodimerization of the Death Associated Protein Kinase Catalytic Domain: Development of a New Small Molecule Fluorescent Reporter," 5(11) *PLoS One* e14120, 2010

- Co-author with L. Munoz, H.R. Ranaivo, S.M. Roy, W. Hu, J.M. Craft, L.W. Chico, L.J. Van Eldik, and D.M. Watterson, "A Novel p38 β MAPK Inhibitor Suppresses Brain Proinflammatory Cytokine Up-Regulation and Attenuates Synaptic Dysfunction and Behavioral Deficits in an Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Model," *Journal of Neuroinflammation* 4:21, 2007

Select Speaking Engagements

- Invited Speaker, "Patent Strategy and Preparing for IP Diligence," TMC Innovation Factory, Houston, Texas, May 19, 2025
- Co-presenter, "From U.S. to China: The Legal Playbook for Biotech Spinouts," LaunchBio's NextGen VC Forum, Palo Alto, California, May 6, 2025
- Invited Speaker, "Mastering IP Diligence for Investments and BioPharma Partnering," American Cancer Society BrightEdge Entrepreneurs Program, March 6, 2025
- Moderator, "Moving from Lab to Marketplace: Successes and Challenges of Rare Disease Biotech Startup," Invest in Cures Disease Foundation Forum, UCSD, San Diego, February 20, 2025
- Speaker, "Patent Strategy for the New Enterprise," Essentials of Start-Up Law, Northwestern University Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, April 22, 2017
- Invited Speaker, "Intellectual Property Considerations for Early-Stage Life Sciences Companies," 10th Annual Drug Discovery for Neurodegeneration Conference, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, Miami, Florida, March 8, 2016
- Guest Lecturer, "Patent Law Basics and Tips for Establishing a Competitive Position in the Marketplace," Current Business Law Issues, Rady School of Management, University of California, San Diego, October 28, 2015

TECHNICAL FLUENCY

Biological Sciences and Biotechnology

- Antibody
- Antigen presentation
- Biochemical assays
- Biochemistry
- Bioconjugation
- Biologics
- Biophysics
- Cancer biology
- Cancer therapeutics
- CAR-T cells
- Cell biology
- Cell culture products
- Cell therapy
- Cellular biology
- Cellular immunology
- Immuno-oncology
- Immunobiology
- Proteomics
- T cell immunology

Therapeutics and Drug Discovery

- Biosimilars
- CRISPR
- Drug conjugates
- Drug conjugates based drug discovery
- Drug delivery
- Gene editing
- Gene therapy
- Immunotherapy targets
- Neuropharmacology
- Peptide therapeutics
- Pharmacodynamics
- Pharmacogenomics

- Pharmacokinetics
- Pharmacology
- RNA interference (RNAi)
- Small molecule synthesis
- Small molecules
- Vaccines

Chemistry and Material Science

- Organic chemistry
- Peptidomimetics
- Polymorph
- Protein engineering
- Protein folding

Genomics and Data Analysis

- Single-cell sequencing