OVERVIEW

Life Sciences-Minded and Strategic Patent Counseling Expertise

Wilson Sonsini’s patents and innovations practice helps clients leverage their intellectual property, defend against claims of others, and establish a competitive position for the future in fields such as therapeutics, biologics, personalized medicine, research tools, and clean technologies. Our team helps growing companies achieve important milestones by securing, developing, and protecting their most vital IP assets, while also advising established companies responsible for advancing groundbreaking discoveries. We identify the areas in which IP protection is most critical to achieving the company’s business objectives, determine the most effective methods of protection, and identify strategies to avoid issues with third-party patents.

The members of Wilson Sonsini’s patents and innovations team are experts in all facets of IP counseling, including the following:

- Patent portfolio management
- Preparation and prosecution of U.S. and foreign patent applications
- Interference and reexamination proceedings
- Non-infringement and validity opinions
- Freedom-to-operate and due diligence analyses
- Licensing and regulatory submissions
- Litigation enforcement and defense, including USPTO trial proceedings
- IP due diligence for initial public offerings, PIPE transactions, asset purchase agreements, and venture financings
- FDA-related submissions and strategies such as citizen petitions and Paragraph IV certification

Key Facts About Our Practice

Wilson Sonsini’s patents and innovations team is comprised of more than 160 experienced patent attorneys and patent agents. In 2022, the firm had more than 850 U.S. and 2100 foreign patents issued on behalf of clients.

At the Cutting-Edge of Life Sciences and Technology Innovation

Wilson Sonsini has an impressive track record of IP value creation, as members of our practice are responsible for the development of the IP portfolios covering such inventions as CRISPR Gene editing, the DNA chip, cancer therapies, nanotechnology, cell-free genetic tests, medical devices, stem cell technologies, and next-generation DNA sequencing. Our patents and innovations attorneys serve clients in the following fields:

- Agricultural biotechnology
- Adoptive cell therapy
- Antibody therapeutics
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics software
- Biomedical sciences
- Biotechnology
- Catalysis and oil processing
- CAR-T cell therapies
- CRISPR gene editing
- Cell therapy
- Chemical engineering
- Digital health
- Diagnostics
- Genetic engineering
- Gene therapy
- Genetics
- Genome editing
- Genomics
- Immunology
- Medical devices
- Molecular biology, RNA-based medicines
- Nanotechnology
- Organic and medicinal chemistry
- Personalized medicine
- Peptides
- Pharmaceuticals
- Proteomics
- Solid state and inorganic chemistry
- Stem cell biology
- Small molecule therapeutics
- Synthetic biology
- Tissue engineering
- Virology

The Largest Life Sciences-Focused Patent Practice in the World

Wilson Sonsini’s patents and innovations team—which is highly integrated with the firm’s corporate, litigation, and transactional practices—is comprised of more than 140 experienced patent attorneys and patent agents, most of whom possess Ph.D. or other advanced degrees in such areas as biology, chemistry, immunology, biomedical sciences, engineering, or other scientific fields.

Substantial USPTO Experience

Over 130 of Wilson Sonsini’s attorneys and agents have been admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In fact, our team includes several former USPTO executives, including a former Administrative Patent Judge, a former Deputy Administrator in the Office of Policy and External Affairs, a former Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, and a former Deputy Commissioner for Patent Administration.