

Karen Deschaine

PARTNER

Corporate
Boston

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FOCUS AREAS

Biotech
Capital Markets
Corporate
Corporate Life Sciences
Emerging Companies and
Venture Capital
Life Sciences

HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Sophisticated and Successful Practice Focused on Growth**
Karen has an established and sophisticated company-building corporate practice focused on representing life sciences clients—particularly biotechnology and therapeutics companies—throughout their life cycles, from formation to exit.
- **Broad Transactional Experience**
Leveraging her strong ties to leading life sciences companies and venture funds, Karen has handled private financings, public offerings, corporate governance, commercial transactions, strategic transactions, securities matters, and the general representation of public and private companies.
- **Recognized for Professional and Community Leadership**
Karen was recognized among the *San Diego Business Journal's* “Leaders In Law” for M&A, named to *San Diego Metro Magazine's* list of “Women Who Impact San Diego” and top “40 Under 40,” honored among the *San Diego Business Journal's* “Women Who Mean Business,” and received a Pinnacle Award from Athena San Diego.
- **Supports Women and Veterans Engaged in Business Ventures**
Karen participates in and/or speaks at events that support women and veterans looking to succeed in new business ventures, having participated in the Women’s Venture Summit, the USMA AOG’s Entrepreneur Summit, the Military and Veterans Startup Conference, and the DAV’s Patriot Boot Camp.

EXPERIENCE

Karen Deschaine is a corporate partner in the Boston office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she represents clients in the life sciences sector, primarily in the biotechnology and therapeutics space.

Over the course of 18 years, Karen has developed a sophisticated company-building corporate life sciences practice. She has handled private financings, public offerings, corporate governance matters, commercial transactions, strategic transactions, securities matters, and the general representation of public and private companies. Karen has successfully represented clients—which range from start-ups to public companies—throughout their life cycles, from formation to exit.

Karen has a proven track record of cultivating longstanding relationships with leading life sciences companies and venture funds. She is well known in the San Diego business community, but also represents clients throughout California and in top markets across the U.S.

After graduating from law school in 2007, Karen joined Cooley LLP, where she was named a partner in 2016.

Before law school, Karen served as a captain in the U.S. Army and commanded two companies. While at West Point, she was a member of the sport parachute team. As such, she jumped the game ball into numerous Army football games and was named the Overall Novice Champion at the 1994 National Collegiate Skydiving Championships.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., UCLA School of Law
- M.B.A., Auburn University
- B.S., Economics, United States Military Academy at West Point

Honors

- Honored among *San Diego Business Journal's* 2025 "Women of Influence in Law"
- Named among the *San Diego Business Journal's* "Top 100 Leaders in Law," 2023
- Honored among the *San Diego Business Journal's* "Leaders In Law," M&A category, 2020
- Recognized among the "Women Who Impact San Diego" by *San Diego Metro Magazine*, 2014
- Named one of San Diego's top "40 Under 40" by *San Diego Metro Magazine*, 2011
- Recognized among the *San Diego Business Journal's* "Women Who Mean Business," 2011
- Recipient, Pinnacle Award, Athena San Diego, 2009

Admissions

- State Bar of California
- State Bar of Massachusetts