Wilson Sonsini is a premier legal advisor to life sciences companies, as well as investors that finance them. Our clients include early-stage private companies, late-stage public companies, venture capitalist, strategic investors, and private equity funds investing in such life sciences companies.

Wilson Sonsini’s Patents and Innovations practice (Patents Group) helps clients leverage their intellectual property, defend against claims of others, and establish a global competitive position for the future in fields such as small molecule therapeutics, biologics, synthetic biology, precision medicine, research tools, and clean technologies. The Patents Group also represents companies and investors in IP due diligence during financings, capital market offerings, and other large transactions.

As such, we are often at the intersection of science and technology, business, and law. We are continuously working on securing, developing, and protecting companies’ most vital IP assets relating to their groundbreaking discoveries.

The Patents Group has over 150 experienced patent professionals, most of whom have a Ph.D. or an advanced degree in fields such as molecular and cellular biology, immunology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computational biology, and computer science. Our patent professionals are located in more than 11 offices in the U.S. and China, and they work closely with attorneys in all other countries.

We are continuously seeking patent agents to join our ranks. Successful candidates are those who have strong technical and communication skills and are interested in supporting innovative technologies in the life sciences.

Patent agents interested in law school are eligible to join the Patent Agent Law School Tuition Program (PALS). PALS offers tuition assistance to help cover law school costs for qualified patent agents who express interest in a career with Wilson Sonsini as a patent attorney.
Two Patent Group attorneys elevated in 2021 among partner promotions

**Lora Green**

Based in Washington, D.C., Dr. Green focuses her practice on patent strategy and prosecution, as well as post-grant proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Federal Circuit. Prior to joining the firm, she spent 25 years at the USPTO, including seven years as a lead administrative patent judge. She managed post-grant review proceedings, such as inter partes and covered business method reviews, and decided ex parte appeals from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical examining groups. Green received her J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

**Lori Westin**

Based in San Diego, Dr. Westin advises clients on patent-related matters, including strategic intellectual property counseling and patent prosecution. Prior to practicing law, she was a research scientist at several companies and academic institutes. Westin is the primary author of numerous scientific and legal publications, and she is an inventor on seven issued U.S. patents on microchip and DNA amplification technology. She received her J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

One of the Most Diverse Firms in the U.S.

The firm ranked No. 8 overall in the 2020 Diversity Scorecard, with 28.7 percent minority attorneys and 18.8 percent minority partners in 2019, and ranked No. 4 for percentage of Asian American attorneys. When taking into consideration the percentages of only those law firms with more than 600 attorneys, Wilson Sonsini ranked No. 3 overall. The firm has historically ranked very highly in the Diversity Scorecard, including three consecutive years in which the firm was ranked No. 1 overall.

Wilson Sonsini was recognized as a top firm for hiring practices relating to gender equity and diversity in Yale Law Women's 15th annual “Top Firms for Gender Equity & Family Friendliness Report.” Each year, Yale Law Women produces the report to raise awareness of inequities within the legal profession, highlight progress being made in the industry, and identify areas for improvement.

In September 2021, for the third straight year, Wilson Sonsini achieved Mansfield Plus Certification, signifying that at least 30 percent of the firm's appointments to leadership roles, promotions to equity partner, senior-level lateral hires, and inclusion in formal business pitches were women attorneys, attorneys of color, and LGBTQ+ attorneys.

Wilson Sonsini Statistics – Life Sciences

| **250+** | **1,200+** | **$11B** | **$73B** |
| Life Sciences Clients | Capital Markets Deals | M&A deals |
| Trusted corporate counsel to more than 200 publicly traded and 1,000 private life sciences clients | More than 100 public offerings raising more than $11 billion in the past five years for life sciences clients | Completed 100+ life sciences transactions valued at over $73 billion in the past five years |

| **1,100+** | **950+** | **100+** |
| Venture Rounds | Patents Issued | Collaborations |
| Raising more than $22 billion in the past five years for life sciences clients | More than 950 U.S. patents issued on behalf of life sciences clients in 2020, filing an average of more than 70 U.S. patents each week | Counseled hundreds of life sciences companies on the structure of strategic corporate collaborations |
“I really like our people. We have a ton of smart, hardworking, creative individuals that really have done amazing things for our clients in terms of developing patent strategies, IP strategies, and making these strategies and patent portfolios valuable such that companies and other folks that are larger are interested in acquiring them, merging with them, and so on. Being part of that is pretty cool.

“What’s kept me here has been the numerous opportunities in the type of work that I’ve been able to do. My work has been very exciting, I’ve worked with companies at all stages, I’ve watched companies grow from literally an individual in a garage to a public company and designed patent portfolios for those companies. I’ve had great mentors in the time that I’ve been here, people that have been willing to talk to me, and make time for me, despite having very busy schedules of their own.”

— Adam Cole
Associate

“As a patent agent at Wilson Sonsini, I help develop and manage IP portfolios of diverse cutting-edge life sciences technologies that have potential to make a global impact. I work and intersect with scientists, and business leaders of companies, as well as examiners at the United States patent office. The collaborative and team-based culture of the firm allows me to work alongside highly talented and experienced colleagues as I progress in my career as a patent professional. Wilson Sonsini also has a training program that provides one-on-one mentorship by attorneys to facilitate the transition of new patent agents from academia to IP law. Additionally, via its PALS program for patent agents attending law school, the firm supports career advancement to a patent attorney position.”

— Payal Vyas
Patent Agent

Get in Touch with Us!

If you are interested in learning more about Wilson Sonsini, the Patents and Innovation practice, Recruiting @ Wilson Sonsini, or the PALS program, please use the links and contact information below.

• For general information about the firm
• For more information about the Patents and Innovations practice
• For a list of our current patent agent opportunities

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