

SUPPORT OF INVESTMENT IN LIFE SCIENCES

WTP is a well-known business law firm, with a strong focus on Biotechnology and Life Sciences issues. Our technology lawyers, based in Maryland and embedded within a strong general practice firm, offer “cradle to exit” support for your investments in biotechnology.

ASSESSING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Technology assessment. Our firm has attorneys who pursued cutting-edge research and have obtained bachelor, master and doctorate degrees in biotechnology, molecular biology, biochemistry and microbiology before becoming lawyers. This scientific background gives us significant insight into the technology itself, its quality, the science team, alternative approaches and competing technologies.

IP assessment. We have extensive experience in virtually every facet of patent law, in particular, and IP law, in general, including domestic and foreign procurement of assets, extensive opinion work (with respect to freedom-to-operate (“FTO”), validity, enforceability, litigation, interferences, oppositions, and re-examinations), and complex litigation and pre-litigation investigations in and outside the U.S. On your behalf, we can:

- Identify existing IP assets and assess their quality, availability and validity. This includes all IP assets, i.e. patents, trademarks, copyrights, domain names, trade secrets, and licenses and other agreements.
- Identify and evaluate exposure to litigation and any FTO issues.
- Consider any IP policies in place and how well they are developed and followed.
- Determine the likelihood of success and/or risk in an action on any of these grounds.

Transactional. Our attorneys have in-depth experience in financings, mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and licenses for large, sophisticated companies such as AEA Investors, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Merck, Merrill Lynch, and Delta and Pineland. With respect to any new investment opportunities, we can:

- Structure transactions to best protect your long-term interests.
- Conduct negotiations and finalize the documentation.

SUPPORT FOR EXISTING PORTFOLIOS

We represent expanding companies and investors in their ongoing growth and development as well as in pursuing exit strategies.

Transactional analysis and contract drafting

- Negotiation and presentation of the technology or IP assets to other investors as part of an expansion or exit strategy. We have conducted negotiations with many of the leading biotechnology powerhouses in Europe and the U.S., presenting company technology and IP assets in exit negotiations or other corporate initiatives.
- Creating JV agreements and all types of licenses and contracts.
- Managing the other party’s due diligence demands.

IP support of companies/technology assets within your portfolio

- Set up or audit IP policy, incentives and process for capturing IP assets and document retention policies. Our attorneys have created IP policies for universities and for fNIH (a government charter).
- Assistance in the procurement of IP, either internally developed or externally obtained by license.