

Christopher Cowles, Ph.D.

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Christopher is a partner in the intellectual property team, based in our Boston office.

He focuses his practice on biotechnology patent preparation and prosecution across nucleic acid therapeutics (including both payloads and particle-based delivery modalities), immunotherapies, genomic technologies, diagnostics/prognostics, personalized medicine, microbiology, virology, and cell biology. He also routinely provides strategic IP counsel to biotech industry and academic clients on IP due diligence, domestic and international IP portfolio management, and has prepared non-infringement, invalidity, and freedom-to-operate opinions.

Prior to joining Withers, Chris was a patent attorney at several law firms and also served for four years as Director of Intellectual Property at Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he was responsible for managing, prosecuting, and growing the company's portfolio of RNAi-relevant patent applications through multiple stages of venture capital funding, partnering, collaborations, licensing, and due diligence, including procurement of broad claims of high value that protect the company's core drug platform.

Talks

- *'Day to day challenges in prosecuting and enforcing patents'*, Life Science Patent Network (LSPN) Annual Conference - October 6, 2022 (moderator)
- *'The Future of Genomics'*, Deloitte Life Sciences Catalyst - Annual panel webinar - September 20, 2021, panelist
- *'Joys and Challenges of IP Practice at the Intersection of Science and Business'*, Corporate Counsel Business Journal, July 2018 (interviewed)

External publications

'In Amgen-Sanofi Decision, High Court Sticks to Patent Law Script,' Bloomberg Law - May 19, 2023, quoted
'[U.S.: High Court Affirms Federal Circuit's Narrow Enablement Approach](#),' IP Law Daily - May 18, 2023, quoted
'[Justices Clamp Down on Broad Patents in Amgen Decision](#),' Law360 - May 18, 2023, quoted
'[Amgen v Sanofi: Scotus Grapples with Enablement](#),' Life Sciences IP Review - March 28, 2023, featured
'Withers Launches Venture Capital and Life Sciences Team in Boston,' Intellectual Property Magazine - April 20, 2021, featured
'[News Digest: On the Move](#),' World Trademark Review, April 20, 2021, featured
Contributing author, The Evolution of Patent Ineligible Subject Matter and the Federal Circuit, Journal of the Federal Circuit Historical Society, Vol.9, 2015
"More PTAB Fights Between Big Pharma Could Be Looming," Intellectual Property Law360, July 2017, quoted
More PTAB Fights Between Big Pharma Could Be Looming, July 19, 2017, featured
Burns & Levinson Expands IP Practice with Eye on the Life Sciences, July 7, 2017, featured
People on the move in R.I., June 2, 2017, featured

Admissions

Massachusetts
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Education

Rice University, B.A., magna cum laude
University of California, San Diego, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences
J.D., cum laude, Suffolk University Law School
Whitehead (MIT), post-doc., genomics

Languages

English

Key dates

Year joined: 2021

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