



Patent Agent Careers at Wilson Sonsini

Patents and Innovations at Wilson Sonsini

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 capitalists, strategic investors, and private equity funds investing in life sciences companies.

Wilson Sonsini's Patents and Innovations practice (Patent 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 Patent 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.

Patent Agent Careers at Wilson Sonsini

The Patent Group has over 140 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.

Patent agents are a key component of the Wilson Sonsini professional staffing model in the firm's Patent Group and make up almost 40 percent of the total number of agents and attorneys. Since patent agents comprise a significant percentage of the patent professional staff, patent agent career and professional development is critical to both their success and the success of the firm's Patent Group. A robust professional development program and standardized patent agent career path, including objective advancement criteria and correspondingly increasing salary and bonus structure, provide for increasing levels of responsibility, independence, and career growth.

Global Reach



1961
Established

18
Offices Worldwide

900+
Attorneys

3K+
Private Clients

300+
Public Clients



Over 130 of Wilson Sonsini's attorneys and agents have been admitted to practice before the USPTO. 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.

Three Patent Group attorneys among 2022 partner promotions

Clark Lin



Based in Boston, Dr. Clark Lin practices intellectual property law, with an emphasis on patent prosecution, general intellectual property counseling, and intellectual

property litigation. He has also been involved in more than 20 life sciences company IPOs. Clark represents clients in the pharmaceutical, life sciences, and biotechnology industries, with a focus on companies developing therapeutics, particularly in the field of immunotherapy. He received his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law.

Ingo Hardt



Based in San Diego, Dr. Ingo Hardt focuses on the preparation and prosecution of patent applications in the fields of chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology. He

also performs patent due diligence in transactional matters. Prior to attending law school, Ingo worked as a drug development chemist for 10 years, primarily at Pfizer, and became a registered patent agent in 2003. He is an author or co-author of 20 peer-reviewed scientific articles and a co-inventor on two issued U.S. patents. Ingo received his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Julia L. Minitti



Based in Palo Alto, Dr. Julia Minitti counsels clients in the biotechnology, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries on a wide range of intellectual property issues,

including patent portfolio development and management, Orange Book listing, patentability, non-infringement, and freedom to operate. She also advises clients in connection with various transactions, such as public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, licenses, and venture financings. Julia received her J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Comprehensive Patent Prosecution Training Program

Wilson Sonsini's Patent Group approaches its professional development for all new hires with two goals in mind: 1) help everyone be up to speed within six months of joining the group, and 2) be the best patent group in the history of American law. To that end, we have developed a comprehensive, collegial, and collaborative approach to professional development.

We have a comprehensive IP training and professional development program that includes one-on-one sessions on patent prosecution, sessions for mid-level agents and associates in more nuanced aspects of patent prosecution, a PatLab Training Series with introductory and advanced classes, monthly meetings addressing recent developments in patent law, practical hands-on training opportunities, and an extensive collection of online IP resources.

Specific Training Available for Entry-Level Patent Agents and IP Specialists:

We also provide a number of hands-on early learning opportunities that include:

- Reviewing someone else's work product for quality control purposes
- Shadowing or Learning by Observing by watching someone do an activity (e.g., file a new patent application)
- Work on matters for pro bono or nonprofit clients whom we don't bill, which provides a good learning platform for trainees and trainers
- Review documents that are posted in an Electronic Data Room used for diligence in order to check for accuracy and errors

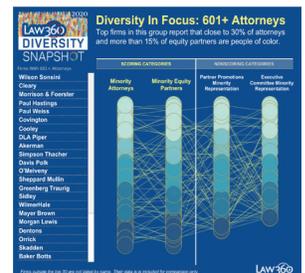
One of the Most Diverse Firms in the U.S.

In January 2022, for the third consecutive year, the firm achieved a perfect score of 100 on the **Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index (CEI)**, the nation's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality.

Wilson Sonsini ranked No. 2 among firms with more than 600 attorneys in *Law360's 2021 Diversity Snapshot*, after ranking No. 1 in the publication's **2020 Diversity Snapshot**.

In addition, the firm ranked No. 15 overall in *The American Lawyer's 2021 Diversity Scorecard*, with 29.0 percent minority attorneys and 19.2 percent minority partners in 2020. When taking into consideration the percentages of only those law firms with more than 600 attorneys, Wilson Sonsini ranked No. 3 overall.

In 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 Diversity Summit

Wilson Sonsini Holds Second Diversity Summit

The October 19th, 2021, event featured a panel of diverse attorneys and industry experts discussing the importance of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. The summit was a key event in Wilson Sonsini's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Keynote: Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession

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Wilson Sonsini Statistics - Life Sciences

"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 and 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

275+

Life sciences-focused attorneys, patent agents, IP specialists, and FDA regulatory specialists, 100+ of whom hold Ph.D. degrees. The team's recent work and accomplishments on behalf of life sciences clients include:

1,200+

Life sciences clients

Trusted corporate counsel to more than 200 publicly traded and 1,000 private life sciences clients

\$11B

Capital markets deals

More than 70 public offerings raising over \$11 billion in the past five years for life sciences clients

\$50B

M&A deals

Completed 100+ life sciences M&A transactions valued at over \$50 billion in the past five years

1,100+

Venture rounds

Helped raise more than \$46 billion in the past five years for life sciences clients

970+

Patents issued

More than 970 U.S. patents issued on behalf of life sciences clients in 2021, filing an average of more than 90 U.S. patents each week

200+

Strategic partnerships and licensing agreements

Counseled hundreds of life sciences companies on the structure of strategic corporate collaborations

At the Forefront of Groundbreaking Technologies



Get in Touch with Us!

If you are interested in learning more about Wilson Sonsini, the Patents and Innovations 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](#)

Hiring Partner Contacts:

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WILSON SONSINI

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Wilson Sonsini has 18 offices in technology and business hubs worldwide. For more information, visit wsgr.com/offices.