

Rachel Leininger Schweers, PhD

Counsel

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Practices

FOCUS: Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Litigation
Litigation

Patent Litigation and Patents

Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Litigation

Education

JD, DePaul University, *summa cum laude*,
Order of the Coif

PhD, Rice University

BA, Augustana College, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Patent & Trademark Office

US District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Community Involvements

American Bar Association

Richard Linn American Inn of Court

Illinois State Bar Association

Dr. Schweers focuses her practice on patent litigation and prosecution with concentrations in the scientific fields of biotechnology, chemistry and pharmaceutical arts.

Skilled Patent Litigator With Deep Business, Scientific and Technical Knowhow

Clients rely on Rachel's passion for scientific innovation along with her depth of experience as a research and development scientist to navigate complex litigation matters. She brings to her matters a mix of practical and strategic experience from the scientific, business, and legal communities

Before rejoining Katten, Rachel worked with life science and healthcare start-ups establishing and building intellectual property portfolios for key biotech and medtech products. She served as co-founder and chief strategy officer for an oncology analytics organization focusing on data, informatics and associated business, regulatory, and legal issues. Rachel also worked as senior corporate counsel and vice president, intellectual property, for a large healthcare organization, managing and overseeing the intellectual property relationships across the organization. Prior to her business career, Rachel served as a law clerk to US District Judge Amy J. St. Eve in the Northern District of Illinois, who has since been appointed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Rachel's work as a patent attorney with Katten has focused on pharmaceutical patent litigation relating to the Hatch-Waxman Act, participating at trial, managing fact and expert discovery, and preparing opinions and Paragraph IV Notice letters. Rachel has also worked in unfair competition litigations related to pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. Before earning her law degree, Rachel worked as a patent agent assisting in the preparation of arguments and experts at trial and prepared and prosecuted patent applications for a number of clients, including applications for protein-protein interactions, DNA-protein binding assays, treatment of neurological disorders, stem cell

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technology, antifungal compounds, polymers biological disinfectants, genetic testing, skin treatments and cosmetics.

Rachel's scientific expertise stems from her earlier work as a research and development scientist at Independent Forensics, concentrating on designing DNA technologies including pharmacogenomics assays and forensic research tools. She gained experience in genetics and molecular biology during her post-doctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with Dr. Paul Ney, focusing on the role of pro-apoptotic proteins during erythroid differentiation using mouse models. As part of her doctoral studies at Rice University, Rachel worked with Dr. John S. Olson. Her dissertation research related to the electrostatic regulation of oxygen and carbon monoxide binding in the alpha and beta subunits of recombinant human hemoglobin. Rachel's doctoral and post-doctoral work has led to multiple publications in peer-reviewed technical journals, including *Biochemistry*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and *Blood*.

Rachel has worked at Katten as a patent agent, summer associate and later as an associate prior to her clerkship. She rejoined the firm as counsel in 2022.

News

- Katten Intellectual Property Team Secures Significant Victory for Apotex in Hatch-Waxman Litigation (November 1, 2022)

Publications

- Alkyl Isocyanides Serve as Transition State Analogues for Ligand Entry and Exit in Myoglobin | *Biochemistry* | Co-Author (May 17, 2010)

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- Distal Histidine Stabilizes Bound O₂ and Acts as a Gate for Ligand Entry in Both Subunits of Adult Human Hemoglobin* | *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Volume 285, Issue 12 | Co-Author (March 2010)
- Role of His(E7) in Regulating Ligand Binding to the Subunits of Human HbA | *Biophysical Journal*, Volume 98, Issue 3, Supplement 1, 642A | Co-Author (January 1, 2010)
- NIX is required for programmed mitochondrial clearance during reticulocyte maturation | *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* | Co-Author (January 2008)
- BNIP3L promotes mitochondrial destruction and ribosome clearance in maturing reticulocytes | *Blood Cells Molecules and Diseases* | Co-Author (March 2007)
- Role of erythropoietin receptor signaling in Friend virus-induced erythroblastosis and polycythemia | *Blood*, Volume 107, Issue 1 | Co-Author (January 1, 2006)

Presentations and Events

- BIO International Convention | Big Data/AI & Personalized Medicine (June 2022) | *Co-moderator*
- BIO International Convention Digital | Lessons from COVID on Innovation Collaboration and Enforcement (June 2021) | *Panelist*
- Intellectual Property Virtual Forum for Life Sciences | Out of Monumental Challenges Come Substantial IP Opportunities (December 2020) | *Panelist*
- ABA Section of International Law Life Sciences Conference | There's No Place Like Home: Jurisdiction in Life Sciences Litigation (Copenhagen, Denmark) (June 2018) | *Panelist*
- 2014 Quarterly Biologics Update (April 24, 2014) | *Speaker*

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- IP Counsel Exchange for Biosimilar Applicants & Sponsors (January 23–24, 2014) | *Moderator* | *Looking Beyond Year 12 – How to Ensure Your Patent Strategies Are Adding Value Beyond the Statutory Period of Exclusivity*