



Rachel L. Schweers, PhD

Counsel

Intellectual Property

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Dr. Rachel Schweers focuses her practice on intellectual property transactions and litigation for organizations in life sciences, biotechnology and health care.

Business-oriented, results-driven attorney with extensive scientific, health care, data technology and biotech experience harnessing opportunities for impact within life science companies

Rachel's career spanning scientific, business and legal communities uniquely positions her legal skill set mixed with practical and strategic experience. Clients rely on Rachel's passion for harnessing scientific innovation and maximizing key assets, along with her depth of know-how as a research and development scientist in navigating complex transactional and litigation matters. Rachel helps her clients develop, protect and promote global intellectual property strategies that nurture and commercialize key assets.

Rachel's years working in the science and health care sector establishing, building and protecting key assets and maximizing intellectual property portfolios gave her first-hand experience with corporate environments. Rachel served as co-founder and chief strategy officer for an oncology analytics organization focused on data and informatics, and managed the myriad business, regulatory and legal issues. Rachel was also senior corporate counsel and vice president, intellectual property, for a large health care company, strategizing and negotiating complex business transactions while managing and overseeing the intellectual property relationships across the international 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 focuses on both life science transactions and pharmaceutical patent litigation, as well as the Hatch-Waxman Act. Rachel's transactional work with pharmaceutical and biotech clients includes asset purchase agreements, licensing agreements and many other strategic relationships to support a thriving product life cycle, including development, manufacturing and commercialization agreements. Rachel's litigation experience includes managing fact and expert discovery, preparing opinions and Paragraph IV

Practices

- Intellectual Property
- Intellectual Property 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
- Texas

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

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Notice letters, and participating in court conferences and at trial. 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 preparing and prosecuting patent applications, including applications for protein-protein interactions, DNA-protein binding assays, treatment of neurological disorders, stem cell technology, antifungal compounds, polymers biological disinfectants, genetic testing, skin treatments and cosmetics.

Rachel's scientific prowess 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 and summer associate, and later as an associate prior to her clerkship. She rejoined the firm as counsel in 2022.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *ANDA Litigation Intelligence Report*
 - Best Performing ANDA Attorneys Representing Defendants, 2023; Top 50, 2024; 2025
 - Most Active ANDA Attorneys Representing Defendants, 2022–2023; Top 100, 2024
 - Best Performing ANDA Attorneys Overall (Representing Plaintiffs or Defendants), 2024-2025
 - Most Active ANDA Attorneys Overall (Representing Plaintiffs and Defendants), 2024

News

- Katten Earns Repeat Recognition as a Top Three ANDA Litigation Firm (September 2, 2025)

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- Katten Ranked Top Three Firm in ANDA Litigation (September 3, 2024)
- Katten Ranked Top Three Firm in Hatch-Waxman Litigation (September 5, 2023)
- Katten Intellectual Property Team Secures Significant Victory for Apotex in Hatch-Waxman Litigation (November 1, 2022)

Publications

- Beyond borders 2025: the top five considerations on the road to success in cross-border life sciences M&A (December 18, 2025)
- The Drug Approval Process: An Overview | *ANDA Litigation: Strategies and Tactics for Pharmaceutical Patent Litigators* (4th Ed., pp. 33-43) American Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law Section | Lead Author (August 20, 2025)
- Orange Book Misuse: Delisting and Use Code Challenges | *ANDA Litigation: Strategies and Tactics for Pharmaceutical Patent Litigators* (4th Ed., pp. 663-672) American Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law Section | Lead Author (August 20, 2025)
- Alkyl Isocyanides Serve as Transition State Analogues for Ligand Entry and Exit in Myoglobin | *Biochemistry* | Co-Author (May 17, 2010)
- 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)

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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*
- 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*