

Richard Emmons, Ph.D.

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Richard is a partner on the U.S. intellectual property team.

He advises individual inventors, companies of all sizes, and academic institutions working in the life sciences, medical device, and mechanical art areas on various IP matters.

Richard combines a strong entrepreneurial spirit, an extensive interdisciplinary research experience, and a deep knowledge of the law to counsel clients in the preparation and prosecution of U.S. and foreign patents in the life sciences, medical device, and mechanical art areas. He assists clients with IP due diligence, IP licensing and patentability, infringement, validity, and freedom-to-operate analyses. His areas of expertise include protein and small molecule pharmaceuticals, antibody therapeutics, vaccines, gene therapy vehicles, constructs, and delivery systems, stem cell-based technologies, biological imaging, medical devices, microfluidics, and biofuels.

Richard has helped clients protect inventions involving protein, antibody, and small molecule therapeutics, mRNA- and protein-based vaccines, gene therapy (vehicles, constructs, and delivery systems), nutraceuticals, genetic engineering, genomics, tissue regeneration and organogenesis, stem cell-based technologies, model system screening assays for gene and drug discovery, nucleic acid - and protein chip-based technologies, bioinformatics analysis, nanobiotechnology, biological imaging, medical devices, microfluidics, and biofuels.

Richard has nearly two decades of research experience spanning developmental biology, genetics, epigenetics, microbiology, cell biology, and computational biology, which included a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Genetics at the Harvard Medical School that studied epigenetic mechanisms of gene regulation.

Track record

Landscape analysis

Performed a landscape analysis for a Fortune 500 company in the vaccine/LNP space.

IP diligence

Performed an IP diligence for a gene therapy company that helped the client obtain ~\$75 million in early series financing.

Patent portfolio management

Actively counsels clients on strategic management of complex patent portfolios related to medical device instruments.

IP due diligence for acquisition

Completed an IP due diligence for a major acquisition by a Fortune 500 client in the immunotherapeutic space.

Talks

- *'Life Sciences CEO Forum,'* December 2020, Boston, MA (presenter)
- *'Patents 101: Protecting Innovations,'* December 2019, New Orleans, LA (presenter)
- *'The World of Gene Therapy Intellectual Property,'* April 2018, Boston, MA (presenter)
- *'Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejections,'* November 2017, Boston, MA (presenter)
- *'The World of Bispecific Antibody Intellectual Property,'* September 2017, Boston, MA (presenter)
- *'IP Issues When Exporting to the U.S. & Strategies for U.S. Patent Disputes,'* August 2017, Qingdao, China (presenter)
- *'Securing Intellectual Property Patent Rights in the United States,'* August 2017, Beijing, China (presenter)
- *'Patent Transparency & Improvement Act: Come Take a Troll with Me,'* March 2014, Boston, MA (presenter)
- *'Considerations for Universities Claiming Micro-entity Status,'* August 2013, Boston, MA (presenter)

External publications

'Opinion: Ruling in REGENXBIO-Sarepta Patent Case Threatens Gene Therapy Market,' BioSpace - August 20, 2024, co-author

'Patent Cases To Watch In 2022,' Law360, January 3, 2022, quoted

'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

'Joys and Challenges of IP Practice at the Intersection of Science and Business,' Corporate Counsel Business Journal, July 2018

'To Seek Design Protection or Not, That is the Question!,' co-author, April 2017

Admissions

State of Massachusetts

US Patent and Trademark Office

Education

College of the Atlantic, B.A. (Ecology)

Suffolk University Law School, J.D.

Washington University, Ph.D. (Developmental Biology)

Harvard Medical School, post-doc., epigenetics

Languages

English

Memberships

Little Cumberland Island Wildlife Refuge, Board Member (2013-present)

Long Range Planning Committee, Member (1996-2006)

Key dates

Year joined: 2021

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