



# Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

**Miki Goodin**

*Miki Goodin is a Chicago-based litigator and Partner in Locke Lord's IP Pharmaceutical Practice Group who spends most days representing clients in patent infringement actions and counseling companies that are in the business of selling lower-cost generic pharmaceutical products in the United States. She also enjoys representing clients in litigation matters that do not involve pharmaceutical patents. Miki is a member of the Firm's Board of Directors and Chair of its Litigation Support Committee.*



## More About Miki

### What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Aside from the encouragement and support of my family, I believe the time, energy and commitment I have put into my work have made me what I am today. I've always tried my best to work as hard as I could without sacrificing my time to play hard. I often found the most successful attorneys in my field were skillful litigators who expertly explained complex technologies and concepts to non-technical audiences. To try to master the applicable law as well as the underlying technology at issue in any matter, I had to put in my time and dig deep because a shallow, even if broad, understanding was not always sufficient. But I made sure whenever possible that I had time to "play" so I wouldn't burn out or turn "dull."

### What's the biggest challenge you've faced in your career?

Realizing that I needed to learn to juggle better right after I first had a kid. Before my responsibilities at home expanded (considerably), I thought that I was pretty good at juggling my work life with my personal life. Discovering that it was not going to be easy for me to be the best mother and wife I could be while giving my all to be the best attorney I could be was a rude awakening. It was tough, but I figured it out.

### What drives or motivates you on your hardest days/during your most difficult matters?

My family motivates me on my hardest days; I am where I am today because of the support I've received from them. No matter how disappointed I am about my performance or about an outcome on any given day, the encouragement (and sometimes "tough love") I receive (especially from my husband) makes me stronger, my skin thicker and overall a little bit more confident than before. It helps to have an adviser and cheerleader who is my partner in life and in business who understands not only my practice but its challenges.

### What do you do to give back to the community?

I am Vice President of the Board of Directors of Ascend Justice, whose mission is to empower individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence or the child welfare system through holistic legal advocacy and systemic reform. I also try to stay active at my 5- and 8-year-old sons' public elementary school by volunteering in classrooms or the school library, lecturing as part of the Lawyers in the Classroom program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, or fundraising for the school's art and music programs due to district-wide budget cuts.

What I find most rewarding is volunteering with the Honeycomb Project, which mobilizes and inspires kids and their families to build stronger communities by working with many organizations serving homeless youth and women, families with pediatric patients, war veterans and some of our city's bravest: Chicago firefighters, to name a few.

### What do you do to relax and reset after a long week?

It isn't always relaxing, but I look forward to hanging out with my sons, from cheering them on at their sports games to watching them weave a plastic cord into a bracelet or build ninja-themed castles using Legos. I also love planning escapes, whether through family vacations or parties.

### What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, Chicago?

Nothing beats summertime in Chicago — baseball games, street festivals, live music and concerts, block parties, rooftop decks, outdoor patio seating, Lake Michigan and the other nearby lakes — even with the surprise rain shower here and there.



Practical Wisdom, Trusted Advice.

[www.lockelord.com](http://www.lockelord.com)

Atlanta | Austin | Boston | Chicago | Cincinnati | Dallas | Hartford | Hong Kong | Houston | London | Los Angeles  
Miami | New Orleans | New York | Princeton | Providence | San Francisco | Stamford | Washington DC | West Palm Beach

---

Locke Lord LLP disclaims all liability whatsoever in relation to any materials or information provided. This piece is provided solely for educational and informational purposes. It is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney-client relationship. If you wish to secure legal advice specific to your enterprise and circumstances in connection with any of the topics addressed, we encourage you to engage counsel of your choice. (072219)