

Locke Lord Strengthens Pharma, Biotech and Life Sciences Capabilities With Addition of 3 Lawyers to IP Pharma Practice Group

Locke Lord has added three lawyers in the Firm's [IP Pharmaceutical](#) Practice Group, further strengthening the Firm's well-recognized capabilities in intellectual property issues for life sciences companies.



Partner [Steve Trybus](#) is a veteran litigator who concentrates on complex patent litigation and related counseling with significant experience in contested proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. His practice includes interferences, inter partes reviews, post grant reviews, trials and appeals. He is a distinguished lawyer in the defense of patents for the groundbreaking CRISPR gene-editing technology. Steve has more than 30 years of experience representing clients in matters involving pharmaceuticals, medical devices and the chemical arts.



[Dr. Smitha Uthaman](#) joined the Firm as an Associate. Smitha received her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School, her Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her B.Tech. in biotechnology and biochemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. She has worked as a scientific adviser and patent agent dealing with various aspects of patent prosecution since 2008, and her practice currently focuses on patent litigation with an emphasis on life sciences fields, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture, immunology, stem cell research and genome engineering.



[August Melcher](#) also has joined the Firm as an Associate. August received his J.D. from New York University School of Law and his B.S. in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin. Prior to law school, August continued his study of chemistry in the graduate program at UC Berkeley's Department of Chemistry, where he served as a Graduate Student Researcher and a Graduate Student Instructor.

Locke Lord's IP Pharmaceutical Practice combines strong scientific understanding, courtroom experience, regulatory experience and industry knowledge. The Firm's lawyers have technical skills and specific experience in a variety of scientific fields, including: pharmaceuticals; organic, inorganic and industrial chemistry; biochemistry; biotechnology; and genetics. Many of Locke Lord's lawyers and scientific advisers have doctorate degrees in the chemical and biological arts. Their real world experience enables them to counsel clients on virtually any legal issue surrounding a lawsuit or transaction without losing sight of the science or technology involved. Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies turn to Locke Lord for assistance in structuring transactions, building strategically solid portfolios and identifying and protecting IP rights.

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