



Polsinelli Adds to IP Bench in Chicago and Raleigh

Shareholder Michelle McMullen, Ph.D., brings deep scientific research background, experience in Biotech and Pharma

CHICAGO and RALEIGH, N.C. (Oct. 22, 2020) Am Law 100 firm [Polsinelli](#) welcomes [Michelle McMullen](#), Ph.D. to its Intellectual Property [Department](#) in Chicago and Raleigh, N.C.

McMullen joins the firm as a shareholder with over 20 years of experience in intellectual property law and a deep understanding of biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical technologies that provides clients with real world perspective and guidance. Her strategic patent counseling includes developing comprehensive IP strategies for licensing, patent-related disputes, patentability requirements and freedom to operate concerns.

Within her varied practice, McMullen represents a wide range of biotechnology companies, university clients and start-ups, and works closely with licensing, regulatory, litigation and foreign counsel to coordinate international patent prosecution. Specifically, McMullen's IP diligence practice includes assessment of the strength and weakness of client and third-party patent portfolios and recommendations for maximizing value of patent portfolios.

Additionally, McMullen brings a robust scientific research background to Polsinelli. She holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology from Northwestern University, and her academic and research backgrounds inform her IP practice, which encompasses emerging developments in diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and vaccines, as well as metabolomics and stem-cell technologies.

"We are excited to welcome Michelle to our team. Her experience representing top universities, pharmaceutical and biotech companies of various sizes and at all stages of development gives her the business insights and perspective our clients value," said Polsinelli Intellectual Property Department Chair [Patrick C. Woolley](#). "And, of course, her deep technical understanding of the science behind the patents enables her to work with clients, whether in the lab or the board room, as a highly effective strategic advisor."

Prior to her career in intellectual property law, McMullen built a strong reputation as a researcher. Her work in the field of molecular endocrinology and developmental biology, including research on the production and characterization of transgenic animal models of human disease, has been widely published.

"I am excited to join the Polsinelli team. The size, scope and quality of the IP department here is truly world class, and it's a great platform for building my practice and integrating my work with full-service business offerings for the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors," McMullen said.

McMullen is a graduate of the DePaul University College of Law. Prior to completing her Ph.D. at Northwestern, she earned a B.S. in Microbiology, *with distinction*, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Polsinelli Intellectual Property Department that McMullen joins is a cross-functional group of attorneys organized to serve the intellectual property needs of clients in a variety of industries. Polsinelli IP attorneys handle some of the most complex issues facing technology and high-tech companies, bioscience and life sciences companies and businesses in the animal science, medical device, pharmaceutical, chemical and software industries.

Polsinelli's Intellectual Property Department ranks among the Top 1-2% of patent firms overall and the Top 100 for Biotech by *Patexia's* Patent Prosecution Intelligence Report, 2020 Edition. The Department continuously earns national recognition such as its inclusion in the IAM Patent 1000.

About Polsinelli

Polsinelli is an Am Law 100 firm with 900 attorneys in 21 offices nationwide. Recognized by legal research firm BTI Consulting as one of the top firms for excellent client service and client relationships, the firm's attorneys provide value through practical legal counsel infused with business insight, and focus on health care, financial services, real estate, intellectual property, middle-market corporate, labor and employment and business litigation. Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California.