

Leanne M. Rakers

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Clients around the world appreciate Leanne's uniquely creative skills in identifying patentable technologies and drafting "outside the box" patent applications, particularly at a time when courts are limiting patent eligibility. Her clients say that she consistently delivers *poignant legal counsel, workable solutions, and excellent work product delivered in a timely manner*. In addition to obtaining patents, her practice includes IP portfolio strategy and management, freedom-to-practice opinions, and due-diligence assessments. Leanne also provides FDA regulatory counsel including patent-drug FDA advice, Patent Term Extension applications, and Orange Book assessments.

Leanne's technical prowess is a rare blend that ranges from chemistry to biotechnology. As the leader of the firm's Chemical and Life Science practice group, her clients include large and small pharmaceutical, life science, chemical, biotechnology, biofuels, cosmetics, and food processing companies. More specifically, clients come to Leanne to protect a wide-range of innovations, including small molecule chemistry, biologics, anti-aging technology and formulations, therapeutic methods and formulations, organometallic chemistry, food science technologies, and recombinant DNA technologies. She vigorously works to obtain patents for clients and has won on appeal many times at the USPTO.

Leanne previously served as the Chair of Harness IP's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, where she worked to empower diverse attorneys and staff within the firm and attract a new generation of diverse attorneys to the field of IP law.

PRACTICE AREAS

Patents

INDUSTRIES

AgriFood Tech; Biologics & Biosimilars; Chemistry & Materials Science; Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology

NEWS / EVENTS

IN THE NEWS

- Leanne Rakers to Present on the Basics of IP Law for Entrepreneurs
- Attorneys Discuss the Harness IP Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship with Michigan Lawyers Weekly
- St. Louis Patent Attorneys to Present at Petfood Forum
- Harness IP Principals to Present on “IP for a Competitive Advantage” at the AgChem Summit

PRESENTATIONS

- Conducted a variety of lectures on patent prosecution sponsored by the Swedish Patent Office in Stockholm, Sweden, on topics including the legislatively-enacted AIA and judicially imposed Supreme Court mandates
- Conducted a variety of seminars in Osaka, Japan in 2013 and 2014 on post-grant AIA strategies and chemical/biotech patent prosecution strategies
- Speaker at the 2014 Corporate Patent Seminar in Chicago, IL on recent USPTO patent office tools

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

- “Skinny Labeling: Origins, Evolution, and Key Decisions,” Pharmaceutical Executive
- “Navigating Patent Term Adjustment and Patent Term Extension: Recent Court Rulings and Their Impact on Obviousness-Type Double Patenting,” The National Law Review
- “Patent Eligibility of Diagnostic Method Claims Following Proposed PERA Act of 2023,” Bloomberg Law
- “Treatment of Antibody Claims in the U.S. After Amgen v. Sanofi” – IP Strategist

BLOGS

- U.S. Chemical & Life Science Patents Q3 - 2025 Newsletter
- U.S. Chemical & Life Science Patents Q2 Newsletter
- U.S. Chemical & Life Science Patents Quarterly Newsletter
- 20 March 2024 USPTO Alert: USPTO ensures robust and reliable patents through examiner training on searching for prior art in FDA and NIH databases
- 25 September 2024 USPTO Coding Error Alert: Check your Patent Term Adjustment (PTA)!
- 1 October 2024 USPTO Alert: Extension and Termination of the After Final Consideration Pilot Program 2.0

BACKGROUND

Prior to practicing law, Leanne studied cell cycle inhibitors and suppressors of cytokine signaling at Pennsylvania State University and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals. She subsequently focused on recombinant protein expression at Sigma-Aldrich Corporation, and is a co-inventor of U.S. Patent No. 6,902,914 (Recombinant DNA Processes Using A dNTP Mixture Containing Modified Nucleotides).

An invited speaker in the U.S. and abroad, Leanne educates both clients and colleagues on the nuances of patent prosecution and enforcement strategies. Her passion for the America Invents Act (AIA) has spawned many presentations across the U.S., Europe and Japan.

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- *St. Louis Business Journal* 40 Under 40 Class of 2016
- *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* "Up and Coming Lawyer," 2013

MEMBERSHIPS

- Chemical & Life Science Practice Group Leader
- Harness IP Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Former Chair
- Intellectual Property Owners Association, Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology Issues Committee, Women in IP Committee
- American Intellectual Property Law Association

EDUCATION

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis, 2005

B.S., Microbiology, *cum laude*, Pennsylvania State University, 2000

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Missouri

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office