

Melissa M. Harwood, Ph.D.

Partner

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Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution &
Counseling
Intellectual Property
Patents
Licensing, Transactions &
Monetization
Market Protection - Opinions &
Dispute Avoidance
Post-Grant Proceedings
Patent Litigation

Industries

Health & Life Sciences
Medical & Surgical Devices
Technology

Melissa Harwood is a registered patent attorney who focuses her practice on strategic intellectual property counseling, IP portfolio development and management, patent prosecution, and IP due diligence for a variety of transactions including venture financings, public offerings, and other deals.

Melissa's client base is centered around the biotechnology, therapeutics, and chemical industries and includes both early stage and established companies. Melissa counsels her clients in connection with IP transactions and agreements including license agreements, collaboration agreements, and merger and acquisition agreements. She also has experience in patent litigation and dispute resolution including proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB).

Prior to joining the firm, Melissa was a partner in the Seattle, Washington office of an international law firm where she focused her practice on strategic intellectual property counseling as well as patent due diligence for partnering deals, venture financings, public offerings, and mergers & acquisitions.

Prior to launching her legal career, Melissa worked as a synthetic bench chemist for a life sciences company and as a postdoctoral research scientist in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Washington.

Melissa has been a frequent presenter, speaker, lecturer, panelist, moderator, program developer, and creator for several years at events including Life Science Washington, Practising Law Institute (PLI), Innovator's Edge, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

Melissa was recommended by *Legal 500 US* in 2023 for Patent Prosecution (including re-examination and post-grant proceedings). She was also recognized for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice and Patent Law in 2022, 2026 and 2027 by *The Best Lawyers in America*®.

Experience

*Represented therapeutics company in obtaining more than \$200 million in financing.

*Represented underwriters in IP due diligence for a biotechnology company's \$80 million IPO.

*Represented underwriters in IP due diligence for a biotechnology company's \$200 million, \$144 million, \$160 million, and \$250 million offerings.

*Represented underwriters in IP due diligence for a biotechnology company's \$73 million IPO.

*Represented investors in IP due diligence for a biotechnology company's \$270 million Series A round of financing.

*Represented investors in IP due diligence for a biotechnology company's \$55 million Series B round of financing.

*Represented biotechnology company in a \$33 million Series A round of financing.

*Represented biotechnology company in a \$55 million financing.

*Represented biotechnology company in a \$177 million IPO.

*Experience gained by attorney prior to joining Kilpatrick

Education

University of Utah B.S., Chemistry (2001)

University of Washington Ph.D., Chemistry (2006)

University of Washington School of Law J.D. (2009)

Admissions

Washington (2009)

Court Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2007)

Professional & Community Activities

JDRF Greater Northwest, Board Member and Executive Committee Member (2017-Present)

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Once Again Earn Outstanding Recognitions in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 20, 2026

Events

Ethics in Patent Law

September 16, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Expands Patent Expertise by Adding Prominent Chemistry & Life Sciences Partner in Seattle

January 27, 2025