

Christopher R. Cowles, Ph.D.

Partner

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Overview

Christopher Cowles advises intellectual property owners, inventors, and academic institutions across all phases of asset creation and optimizing value in biotechnology, including patent preparation and prosecution, legal opinion provision and other support in contentious patent proceedings, and deal-critical patent diligence for partnering, private and public funding rounds, and mergers and acquisitions. He has extensive experience in nucleic acid therapeutics—including both payloads and particle-based delivery modalities—as well as genomic technologies, immunotherapies, diagnostics and prognostics, personalized medicine, microbiology, virology, and cell biology. Chris routinely provides strategic intellectual property counsel to clients, advising on IP due diligence, domestic and international IP portfolio management, and preparing non-infringement, invalidity, and freedom-to-operate opinions.

Prior to joining Day Pitney, Chris was a patent attorney at several law firms and served as Director of Intellectual Property at Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for four years. In that role, he managed, prosecuted, and expanded the company's portfolio of RNAi-relevant patent applications through different stages of venture capital funding, strategic partnerships, collaborations, licensing, and due diligence. He was instrumental in securing broad, high-value claims protecting Dicerna's core drug platform.

Chris is often sought out by media outlets to comment on complex patent issues, in the news, including timely discussion on court decisions, particularly those impacting the life sciences and biotech industries.

He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, and completed postdoctoral research in genomics at the Whitehead Institute at MIT.

Practices & Industries

- Academic Institutions & Higher Education
- Corporate & Business Law
- Family Office
- Healthcare & Life Sciences
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Life Sciences
- Patent Prosecution & Counseling
- Post Grant Proceedings

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Obtained high value patent claims protecting core therapeutic and delivery modalities for various nucleic acid therapeutics clients

Performed deal-critical IP diligence upon several biotech companies spanning diverse therapeutic and diagnostic sectors, to evaluate IP risks and rewards for projected investment by a large family office client

Education and Credentials

Education

Whitehead Institute (MIT), Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellow, Genomics

University of California, San Diego, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences

Suffolk University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*

Rice University, B.S., *magna cum laude*

Admissions

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. See Awards Methodology.

Recognitions

Chosen for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), Patent Law, 2026-2027

Chosen for inclusion in the Top Recommended List by *The SPEAR'S 500*, 2022 and 2023

Community Involvement

Winchester Soccer Club, Coach, 2021-Present

Insights

Submitting Ideas to AI Platforms May Affect Patent Rights
May 27, 2026

Patently Enabled December 2025 – How Broadly Can I Claim? Genus-Species Assessments and Why They Matter
Day Pitney Patently Enabled Newsletter, December 5, 2025

Patently Enabled October 2025 – Smarter Searches, Tougher Standards: USPTO Launches DesignVision
Day Pitney Patently Enabled Newsletter, October 3, 2025

Patently Enabled August 2025 – Avoid New USPTO Fees: File Your Continuations Before the 6-Year Deadline
Day Pitney Patently Enabled Newsletter, August 1, 2025

Patently Enabled April 2025 – Written Description in Life Sciences Patents: Avoiding Overreach
Day Pitney Patently Enabled Newsletter, April 4, 2025

News

Day Pitney Grows National IP Practice With Boston Life Sciences Patent Team
Day Pitney Press Release, February 24, 2025

In The Media

Day Pitney Grows IP Practice With Life Sciences Patent Trio
Bloomberg Law Automation , March 5, 2025

Day Pitney Expands Boston Office with Key Hires in Life Sciences Patent Law Practice
Legal News Feed, March 3, 2025

Hub Hires: Freshfields, Day Pitney, Paul Hastings, Cozen
Law360, March 3, 2025

Withers Life Sciences IP Team Joins Day Pitney In Boston
Law360, February 24, 2025