



## Michelle M. LeCointe

PARTNER

### EDUCATION

Columbia Law School  
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar  
J.D. 2000

Harvard University  
Biochemical Sciences  
B.A. (*magna cum laude*) 1997

### INDUSTRIES

Alternative Energy  
Biotechnology  
Chemistry  
Medical Devices  
Pharmaceuticals

### PRACTICES

IP Agreements & Licensing  
IP Litigation & Enforcement  
Mediation  
Patent  
Strategic Counseling  
Trade Secrets

### BAR ADMISSIONS

New York  
Texas  
Washington  
United States Patent  
and Trademark Office

### COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the  
Western District of Texas

### BACKGROUND

Michelle LeCointe focuses her practice on U.S. and international IP transactions, strategies, and patent procurement. She has a wealth of experience in a broad array of technologies including pharmaceuticals, biologics, protein therapeutics and antibodies, medical devices, medical diagnostics and research materials, manufacturing processes, as well as lithium and sodium ion rechargeable batteries. She frequently counsels clients on IP agreements, corporate IP due diligence, U.S. and international patent applications, post-grant contested proceedings, non-infringement and invalidity opinions, and patent litigation.

Michelle received a B.A. (*magna cum laude*) in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University, in 1997. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School, as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, in 2000.

### EXPERIENCE

Michelle enjoys close collaboration with her clients on all aspects of IP law. The breadth of her experience allows her to provide clients with multiple options to fit their needs and to identify potential complications, with particular insight into the sometimes muddy issues when other legal fields overlap, such as asset sales, employment agreements, and ownership of IP rights.

For all of her matters, Michelle likes to truly get to know her clients, and their businesses and technologies, and brings her many years of experience to bear to provide coordinated strategic advice and efficient results. She prides herself, not only on keeping abreast of developments in IP law, but often anticipates and develops new ways to address those that affect her clients.

A substantial portion of Michelle's practice is devoted to helping clients develop strategic plans for IP protection, including determining when to file patent applications and how to adjust strategies in light of the evolution of patent examination, both in the US and internationally. Michelle readily helps clients identify areas that may be more strategically protected as "know how" or trade secrets, and provides tailored advice on how to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

Michelle has well-earned experience with a host of complex legal issues such as protecting difficult and emerging technologies and managing high-value patent portfolios. She regularly drafts and negotiates a variety of IP agreements, such as complex, joint venture and joint development agreements, research collaboration

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agreements, and asset purchase agreements, as well as simple licenses, and confidentiality and material transfer agreements that better protect clients' particular businesses needs and interests than off-the-shelf agreements.

When clients are making substantial investments or IP purchases, Michelle is often asked to conduct due diligence and provide valuation-oriented evaluations of the legal risks associated with a specific product, establish freedom-to-operate, and conduct patentability analyses in crowded fields.

Pro bono legal advice is also important to Michelle and she gives her time and IP expertise to a number of charities and individuals, including a nationally recognized organization which promotes reading for children, and an organization that advocates for empowering children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Prior to entering the legal field, Michelle conducted research in the Department of Immunology at Harvard Medical School, culminating in her thesis relating to the role of integrins in mucosal mast cell migration. Before joining SeedIP, Michelle worked as an associate attorney and then as of counsel at Baker Botts in Austin, Texas.

## AFFILIATIONS

Michelle is admitted to the state bars of Washington, New York and Texas. She is registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. Michelle is a Board Member of the Washington State Patent Law Association (WSPLA), the Washington State Bar Intellectual Property Section, the Intellectual Property Owners Association Licensing Committee, Life Science Washington, and the Harvard Club.

## PUBLICATIONS

"Trade Secrets and Confidentiality in Agreements and Due Diligence Under FTC non-Compete Rules", WSBA IP Licensing Institute, July 23, 2024

"Financial Terms and Other Consideration in IP Transactions," WSBA IP Licensing Institute, July 18, 2023

"Adding Value to Licenses: Legal-Focused Provisions," WSBA IP Licensing Institute, July 15, 2022

"Patent Law Year In Review," WSBA 27th Annual IP Institute, April 28, 2022

"Managing Innovation: Patent Basics for Biotechnology Counsel," Co-Author Biotechnology and the Law, 2nd Ed., American Bar Association, 2019

"Prosecuting, asserting, and licensing lithium iron phosphate battery patents invented by Dr. John Goodenough". Presentation at the Battery Industry Conference - National Alliance for Advanced Technology Batteries (NAATBatt) Conference, March, 2018