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Kevin A. O'Connor, Ph.D.

Partner | Intellectual Property

OVERVIEW

Kevin represents his clients in all aspects of patent law, including due diligence investigations for mergers and acquisitions, patent counseling and prosecution, strategic management of patent portfolios, and opinion preparation, focusing his practice primarily on the biotechnological, pharmaceutical, and medical device industries.

Kevin's work encompasses a broad spectrum of technologies, including therapeutics such as cellular therapies, gene therapies, vaccines, large molecules (biologics), and small molecules; diagnostic assays and laboratory reagents; gene editing; and medical devices.

Clients value Kevin's sophisticated business and communication skills that he puts into play to effectively advise them on the practical implications of their legal strategies. Kevin has assisted clients with multimillion-dollar acquisitions and collaborations, including due diligence and agreement drafting with various intellectual property, antitrust and corporate issues.

Kevin received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Colorado, where his studies focused on interactions between the central nervous system and the immune system. Kevin is author of 21 peer-reviewed journal articles and has presented his work at various national and international scientific meetings.

After finishing his graduate work, Kevin joined the Molecular and Cellular Pathobiology Program at Children's Memorial Research Center in Chicago to study the pathophysiology of a pediatric inflammatory disease.



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EDUCATION

Chicago-Kent College of Law (J.D., 2007), with high honors, Order of the Coif

Children's Memorial Research Center
(Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2004)

University of Colorado at Boulder
(Ph.D., 2003)

Creighton University (B.A., 1998)
summa cum laude

ADMISSIONS



Kevin has been listed as a Rising Star in the 2016–2017 editions of *Illinois Super Lawyers*. In 2016 the Law Bulletin Publishing Company chose him as one of the “40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch.” Kevin has donated his time and energy to advocacy for blood cancer research and has served on the Leadership Board of the Illinois Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

In 2023, Kevin joined Portal Innovations Founder & CEO John Flavin for a live taping of the podcast “Lab Rats to Unicorns.” Kevin and John co-moderated a discussion with Rick Silverman and Hande Ozdinler of Northwestern University about life sciences start-ups.

EXPERIENCE

Representative Transactional Experience

- Conducting due diligence on patent issues for:
 - a global, strategic collaboration to develop and commercialize small molecule inhibitors of downstream mediators of kinase proteins for oncology indications
 - a license and collaboration agreement to advance development of multivalent antibodies as immunotherapies for autoimmune and oncology indications
 - an acquisition of a company developing small molecules to modulate pathways that play a role in generating an immune response against tumors
 - a research and development agreement for small molecule integrin inhibitors to treat fibrotic diseases that included an upfront payment of \$100 million
 - a global strategic collaboration to develop and commercialize therapeutic antibodies to treat neurodegenerative diseases including that included an upfront payment in excess of \$200 million
 - an venture investment in a company focused on developing therapeutic antibodies targeting glyco-immune checkpoints for oncology indications
 - a collaboration for the development of orally bioavailable, selective inhibitors of immunoproteasome subunits for immunology indication
 - a license agreement for the global development and commercialization of a small molecule kinase inhibitor that included an upfront payment of \$40 million
 - a strategic collaboration to develop therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases including Parkinson’s disease



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- a \$450 million acquisition of a company developing therapeutic antibodies for indications in immunology and oncology
- the acquisition of the global rights to a humanized antibody to treat chronic pain in an agreement that included upfront and milestone payments in excess of \$150 million
- Providing strategic analysis of IP landscapes related to anti-viral therapies, including direct-acting antiviral medicines for hepatitis C
- Freedom-to-operate analysis for various commercial products, including small molecule compounds, large molecules, and cellular therapeutics
- Drafting and prosecuting patent applications covering cellular therapies such as stem cells and CAR T-cells; large molecule therapeutics such as antibodies and peptides; small molecule therapeutics such as direct-acting antiviral agents and steroid derivatives; and nucleic acids such as silencing RNAs; nutraceuticals; gene editing, including CRISPR-related applications; molecular biology for next generation sequencing; and viral vector-mediated gene therapy.

Representative Life Science Patents & Applications

- U.S. Patent No. 10,738,108 – “Monoclonal antibodies against claudin-18 for treatment of cancer”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,537,572 – “Methods of administering elagolix”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,526,387 – “Tumor vaccination involving a humoral immune response against self-proteins”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,501,420 – “Pyridyl analogs of 1-(2-cyano-3,12-dioxooleana-1,9(11)dien-28-oyl) imidazole”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,413,444 – “Treatment of ischemia-reperfusion injury by controlling patient temperature”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,398,590 – “Temperature management systems”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,314,890 – “Combination therapy involving antibodies against claudin 18.2 for treatment of pancreatic cancer”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,201,584 – “Compositions and methods for treating HCV”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,072,040 – “Tylosin A analogs and derivatives”
- U.S. Patent No. 10,053,512 – “Antibodies against claudin 18.2 useful in cancer diagnosis”
- U.S. Patent No. 9,932,401 – “Antibodies specific for claudin 6 (CLDN6)”



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- U.S. Patent No. 9,598,721 – “Universally applicable lysis buffer and processing methods for the lysis of bodily samples”
- U.S. Patent No. 9,453,007 – “Hepatitis C inhibitors and uses thereof ”
- U.S. Patent No. 9,248,193 – “Formulations of Phenyl Uracil Compounds”
- U.S. Patent No. 9,200,021 – “Phosphine ligands for catalytic reactions”

RECOGNITIONS

- “40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch,” Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2016
- *Illinois Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” in “Intellectual Property,” 2016-2017
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, recommended in “Patent Law” since 2025

NEWS & INSIGHTS

February 17, 2025 Event

NGE Attends the American Conference Institute’s 2nd Annual Life Sciences AI Summit

August 30, 2024 In The Media

Orange Book Eligibility for Drug Patents

August 15, 2024 Firm News

60 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2025 *Best Lawyers In America*

June 9, 2023 Event

Firm Hosts Intellectual Property 102 Webinar Series

May 22, 2023 In The Media

Kevin O’Connor Quoted by *Law360* in “Justices Clamp Down On Broad Patents In Amgen Decision”

May 10, 2023 In The Media

Kevin O’Connor Moderates Episode of “Lab Rats to Unicorns” Podcast

03.22.23 Firm News

Kevin O’Connor and Mike Harlin Speak at the ACI Novel Therapeutic Modalities and Gene Therapies Conference

November 16, 2022 Publication

Kevin O’Connor and Mike Harlin Author Article on Patents and RNA-Based Therapeutics Published on *BioProcess Online*

October 14, 2022 In The Media

Kevin O’Connor Quoted in *Chemical & Engineering News* Article on IP Waivers for COVID-19 Products



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October 4, 2022 In The Media

Kevin O'Connor Quoted in *Endpoints News* Article on WTO COVID-19 Vaccine Waiver

September 1, 2021 Firm News

NGE Represents HAVI in Acquisition of PMI Worldwide

August 31, 2021 In The Media

Kevin O'Connor Quoted in MedCity News on DeepMind's use of AI for Protein Structure Predictions

July 22, 2021 Publication

In an Increasingly Hot Biotech Market, Protecting IP Is Key

May 28, 2021 Video

COVID-19 and IP Waiver for Patent Protection

March 26, 2021 In The Media

Kevin O'Connor Interviewed by BioPharma-Reporter on BioTech Patents

September 1, 2020 Publication

ANDA Litigation: Strategies and Tactics for Pharmaceutical Patent Litigators

November 13, 2019 Publication

Kevin O'Connor Participates in Getting Biosimilars to Market Roundtable

June 18, 2019 In The Media

Kevin O'Connor Quoted in *Law360* Article

April 4, 2019 In The Media

Kevin O'Connor Quoted in *Law360* Article

February 1, 2019 Publication

Client Alert: Federal Circuit PTA Decision Favors Applicants with Multiple Co-Pending Domestic and Foreign Applications

January 23, 2019 Publication

NGE IP Focus: Life Sciences

August 13, 2018 In The Media

Kevin A. O'Connor Interviewed in *IPPro Patents*

August 13, 2018 In The Media

Kevin A. O'Connor Quoted in *IPPro Patents*

July 31, 2018 Publication

Pre-ANDA Litigation: Strategies and Tactics for Developing a Drug Product and Patent Portfolio

July 26, 2018 Publication

Making a Splash in the CRISPR Patent Pool

July 26, 2018 Publication

How Patents Play a Role in Drug Pricing



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July 9, 2018 Firm News

Neal Gerber Eisenberg Promotes Two Attorneys to Partner in Intellectual Property and Real Estate Practice Groups

July 9, 2018 Firm News

41 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Listed in 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers

July 9, 2018 Firm News

Kevin A. O'Connor, Ph.D and Kevin C. May File Amicus Brief on Behalf of IPLAC; Reported in *Law360*

July 9, 2018 Firm News

Neal Gerber Eisenberg Partner Kevin A. O'Connor, Ph.D. Named One of the "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch"

June 27, 2018 Event

Patent Claim Drafting

June 27, 2018 In The Media

Kevin A. O'Connor Quoted in *Law 360*

June 27, 2018 In The Media

Kevin A. O'Connor Quoted in *STAT News*