



Nicole Sassu, Ph.D.

Associate

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Responsiveness, efficiency and collaboration are core values for Nicole, who is committed to handling each invention with care and ensuring clients feel valued. She prioritizes addressing challenges with solutions aligned to each client's patent strategy and believes teamwork is key to delivering exceptional results.

Nicole Sassu is a registered patent attorney with a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. She focuses on patent law in the pharmaceutical and chemical arts industries. She works with multinational pharmaceutical corporations, mid-sized companies, start-ups and universities, offering strategic insights into patent law and intellectual property.

Her practice includes:

- Diligence opinions
- Educating clients about patent law and case law relating to patents
- Freedom-to-operate analyses
- Global patent portfolio management
- Intellectual property
- Patent preparation
- U.S. and foreign patent prosecution

Nicole's experience spans the entire pharmaceutical development timeline, from initial filings for the composition of matter and novel chemical entities to second-generation filings. She handles salt forms, prodrugs, polymorph crystal forms, metabolites, formulations, antibody-drug conjugates, combination therapies, dosages and synthetic routes. She also prepares patent applications related to

Areas of Focus

Services

[Intellectual Property](#)

[Patents](#)

siRNA, oligonucleotides, solid-state electrolytes, enzymatic templates and photoswitches.

Nicole's research background in medicinal and process chemistry includes work on a multimillion-dollar National Institute of Health (NIH) grant, where she generated a library of glycosphingolipid analogs. These immunostimulatory compounds were investigated for cancer therapies and as vaccine adjuvants. Under the guidance of Dr. Jonathan Reeves, she developed a novel, titanium-free method for generating chiral N-substituted ketimines, which are valuable synthetic intermediates for stereoselectively inducing asymmetry in active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Clients benefit from Nicole's deep scientific knowledge and practical experience in managing complex intellectual property matters, ensuring comprehensive protection for their innovations.

Experience

- Contributed to diligence efforts culminating in a major pharmaceutical company's \$1.75 billion acquisition of a start-up radioligand therapy company.
- Oversaw global patent term extension applications for patent portfolios covering commercial products.
- Participated in a week-long Multilaw Academy in Chiangmai, Thailand, engaging with attorneys worldwide to explore contract negotiation, licensing agreements and legal system differences across countries.

Credentials

Education

- Suffolk University Law School, J.D., 2021
- The University of Connecticut, Ph.D., Organic Chemistry, 2017
- Providence College, B.S., Biochemistry, 2013

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Recognition

- IP Stars, "Rising Star," 2024
- Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2017
- Graduate Student Travel Award Recipient, 2017
- Three Minute Thesis Competition, Second Place Recipient, 2016

- Undergraduate Research Grant, 2011-2013
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Presentations

- Presenter, "Pharmaceutical patent prosecution primer," and "Small molecule Federal Circuit case law," ACS Fall 2024 Meeting, August 18, 2024
 - Presenter, "Synthesis of Carbohydrate Modified Analogs of α -Galactosyl-ceramides for Th1 Biased iNKT Cell Activation," Gordon Research Conference: Organic Reactions and Processes, 2017
 - Presenter, "Synthesis of Naphthyridine/Azaquinolone Analogs for the Disruption of TNR Expansions in the Base Excision Repair Mechanism," ACS Meeting, 2013
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Publications

- Co-Author, *Pd-Catalyzed Acyl C-O Bond Activation for Selective Ring-Opening on α -Methylene- γ -lactones with Amines*, Organic Letters, 2017
 - Co-Author, *Cross Dehydrogenative Coupling of N-Aryltetrahydroisoquinolines (sp^3 C-H) with Indoles (sp^2 C-H) Using Heterogeneous Mesoporous Manganese Oxide Catalyst*, Green Chemistry, 2017
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Professional Activities

- American Chemical Society, 2013 – Present
- Phi Lambda Upsilon: Alpha Phi Chapter, 2013 – Present
- Sigma Xi Research Honor Society, 2013