

Life Sciences Group Of The Year: Quinn Emanuel

By **Jasmin Jackson**

Law360 (March 1, 2023, 2:03 PM EST) -- Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP has successfully navigated a host of high-stakes litigation in the biotechnology field, including helping Complete Genomics Inc. score a \$334 million damages award in its patent suit over DNA sequencing technology, earning it a place among **Law360's 2022 Life Sciences Groups of the Year**.



Quinn Emanuel's life sciences practice has a deep bench of about 100 attorneys that spans the firm's 14 U.S. offices — including major hubs like New York, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. — as well as its international offices in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Raymond N. Nimrod, co-chair of the firm's global life sciences practice, told Law360 that "almost half of our patent litigation practice concerns life sciences disputes."

"Our practice continues to grow each year, as there is increasing demand from clients for battle-tested trial counsel in the space," Nimrod added.

The practice group's "battle-tested" attorneys have guided their clients to some monumental wins like leading PureWick Corp. — a unit of global medical technology company Becton Dickinson and Co. — to victory in its patent suit against Stryker Corp.'s Sage Products LLC over female external catheters.

In April 2022, a Delaware federal jury **awarded** PureWick \$26.2 million in lost profits as a result of the infringement, as well as nearly \$1.8 million in royalties for Sage's sale of an infringing product.

"Our life sciences group has litigated some of the most complex and high-stakes disputes in the field and will continue to be a focus area for the firm," Nimrod said.

Those high-stakes disputes include helping the Broad Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology navigate their Patent Trial and Appeal Board dispute against Nobel Prize-winning scientists at the University of California and University of Vienna — after the PTAB argued that Broad and MIT were entitled to the priority date for the use of the gene-editing technology CRISPR-Cas9 in plants and animals.

Ultimately, the PTAB held **in March 2022** that Quinn Emanuel's clients, Broad and MIT, invented the breakthrough technology. According to Nimrod, "CRISPR technology is transforming research, and will be especially key for my children's generation and generations thereafter."

"We are truly grateful for the opportunity to work with a client like the Broad, and the scientists who invented this breakthrough technology and are committed to making it broadly and equitably available," Nimrod added.

David Bilsker, co-chair of the firm's biotechnology practice, told Law360 that the practice group's wins stand out from those of its competitors. According to Bilsker, "our [verdict] numbers are much higher and, like the CRISPR case, front and center in almost all technology news."

"I think we're getting very good results on a lot of different fronts," Bilsker added.

Last year, Bilsker and a team of attorneys at Quinn Emanuel guided Chinese life sciences company Complete Genomics Inc. in its Delaware federal court patent suit against rival Illumina Inc. over DNA sequencing technology. Following a trial, a federal jury held **in May 2022** that Illumina infringed two of Complete Genomics' patents, finding that Illumina should pay \$334 million worth of damages.

According to Bilsker, "it is believed to be the largest verdict in the history of the United States — for any kind of case — for a Chinese-based company."

"I know for a fact that there were not any numbers that were close to the verdict that we received," Bilsker said. "I've looked at verdicts for the entire year — in all types of cases — we were the second-highest patent verdict in the country for 2022. That was a rather monumental case, which, actually, in China, received a lot of publicity — a lot more than it did here just because of the historic nature of it."

And the group's wins in 2022 didn't stop there. The firm also led Vifor Fresenius Medical Care Renal Pharma Ltd. to victory in its patent suit against Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Vifor had accused Teva of planning to make a generic kidney disease drug that infringed two Vifor patents. A Delaware federal judge held **last August** that Teva's planned generic infringed the asserted biotechnology that controls phosphate levels in the blood of kidney disease patients.

"The biotechnology field is exploding," Bilsker said. "The litigation is going to continue to grow because ... as a country and as a civilization, medical technology is becoming more and more important."

--Additional reporting by Dani Kass, Ryan Davis and Lauren Berg. Edited by Andrew Cohen.